

Although the Irish Government make fine-sounding speeches, they do not always seem to be backed up by appropriate deeds

Thatcher dismay over Ryan

Brussels, Dublin face summit dressing-down over priest

● The Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday she was "utterly dismayed" at Belgium's decision not to return alleged IRA terrorist Patrick Ryan to Britain

● Mrs Thatcher rebuked the Dublin Government for failing to arrest Father Ryan and angrily accused it of lacking the resolve needed to fight terrorism

● Her bitter criticism came as the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Britain's anti-terrorist laws breached suspects' rights and must be changed

● Although the dispute has soured relations between London and Dublin, Whitehall is insisting that the Anglo-Irish Agreement is still intact

By Richard Ford, Jamie Dettmer and Michael Dynes

The Prime Minister made one of her strongest attacks on fellow EEC nations yesterday when she criticized Belgium and the Irish Republic for allowing alleged IRA terrorist Patrick Ryan to walk free.

Mrs Thatcher's rebuke came as the Government suffered a further blow to its efforts to combat terrorism when the European Court ruled that Britain's anti-terrorist laws breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

But during noisy exchanges at a Prime Minister's Question Time dominated by the issue of combating terrorism, Mrs Thatcher indicated that despite the judgement in Strasbourg the Government would ensure the police had adequate powers to fight terrorists, and wanted consid-

eration to be given to the human rights of victims.

Although the row has soured relations between London and Dublin, causing backbench Conservative MPs to question the validity of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, Whitehall insisted that the

accord was far from worthless and provided a vehicle for achieving joint action against terrorism.

The Prime Minister is likely to express her dismay at the action of the Belgian and Irish Governments when she attends the EEC heads of government summit in Rhodes on Friday.

If Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, is well enough to attend, they are to have bilateral talks at which she is likely to leave him in no doubt of her feelings.

In the Commons, the Republic's Ambassador, Mr Andrew Rourke, listened as Mrs Thatcher castigated his Government's failure to arrest Father Ryan. Spurred on by her own backbenchers, the Prime Minister barely concealed her anger at the handling of extradition requests made by Britain to Belgium and the Irish Republic for the return of Father Ryan.

The Prime Minister said the extradition warrants had been prepared with the active co-operation of the Belgian authorities and the Government was "utterly dismayed" at the decision not to return him to Britain. But it was the

Irish Government that bore the full brunt of Mrs Thatcher's attack. She said: "Failure to secure Ryan's arrest is a matter of grave concern. It is no use government's adopting great declarations and commitments to fight terrorism if they then lack the resolve to put them into practice."

She added: "Although the Government of the Republic of Ireland make fine-sounding speeches and statements, they do not always seem to be backed up by appropriate deeds."

Her onslaught on the Irish Republic's record will infuriate Mr Haughey's minority Government, whose cabinet yesterday studied a preliminary report on Britain's extradition request.

There was no comment on the outcome of the cabinet meeting, but the Government struck a defiant pose and suggested that the British were "over-reacting" to the disappearance of the Roman Catholic priest.

Mr John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, is unlikely to reach a decision on Britain's request until next week at the earliest.

Last night it emerged that Father Ryan may not be as ill as has been claimed by his family. It appears that he left Blackrock Clinic in Dublin at the weekend for a three-hour secret meeting with his family and lawyers.

His family claim that he is weak and in no condition to be questioned by police about the British allegations. Father Ryan issued a statement from his secret hideaway yesterday in which he claimed that "no

Irish person could expect a fair trial under the British judicial system".

There was confusion about whether the Irish Government knows the whereabouts of the priest. Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, who is in Dublin on a visit, said that he had been given personal assurances by the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr Brian Lenihan, that the Garda did know, but his solicitor, Mr Elio Malocco, said that the Irish authorities had not been told about Father Ryan's location. He insisted that the Garda would need a court order to question him.

Meanwhile, the Government is to study the ruling from the European Court of Human Rights saying that the UK's anti-terrorist laws breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Court in Strasbourg backed the case brought by four Roman Catholics from Northern Ireland who were held for more than four days and then released without trial. It ruled that the police powers to hold suspects for up to seven days are in breach of the convention.

Last night it was made clear that despite demands from Conservative backbenchers to ignore the ruling, the Government had no intention of defying the ruling of the court in Strasbourg.

In Belgium, a bitter row broke out in Parliament over the Government's refusal to extradite Father Ryan. A former Minister for Justice, Mr John Gol, accused the Government of "betraying a fellow EEC member-state".



Ready for battle: Mrs Thatcher leaving No 10 before her Commons onslaught on terrorism.

Lawson survives ordeal by fire

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, survived his ordeal by fire in the Commons yesterday, promising that inflation would again be on the way down "in a matter of months".

The Chancellor was cheered by Conservative MPs at the end of a speech in which he said that rising inflation rather than the trade deficit was the real danger to the British economy and defended the use of high interest rates as the only effective means of controlling it.

But he warned Tory MPs that the policy could bring a period of unpopularity.

The Chancellor said that inflation had risen only from 5 per cent to 5.1 per cent between July and October if mortgage payments were excluded, as they were in other countries.

He added: "Some time during the first half of next year, I would expect the RPI (Retail Price Index), excluding mortgage interest payments, to peak at around 5.5 per cent before inflation resumes its downward trend."

Mr Lawson's prominent use of the RPI figures, excluding mortgages, was felt by Conservative MPs to be significant. Labour MPs claimed he was basking in the fire of removal of mortgage rises from the RPI, but this was denied.

Last night Mr Lawson appeared to have reassured a majority of his backbenchers with his explanation of the background to the recent succession of interest rate rises and his confident prediction that the policies would succeed.

But many Conservatives

Continued on page 24, col 4

WIN £24,000

Portfolio
PLUS
Accumulator

● The £4,000 daily prize was won yesterday by Mr James Doherty, of Newham Way, London E16. The Accumulator fund stands at £24,000. Prices: page 29

INSIDE

'Threat' of Guildford convictions

The convictions 14 years ago for the Guildford pub bombing rest upon a fundamental error of law which threatens Britain's system of trial by jury, two Lords of Appeal argue in an article in *The Times* today.

Lord Devlin and Lord Scarman argue that justice for the Guildford four is now in the forefront of a larger issue, namely restoring the foundations of our constitutional law. Page 16

Clowes wait

The Parliamentary Ombudsman told MPs his investigation into the Barlow Clowes collapse would take months rather than weeks. Page 25

Cricket tour

Negotiations for a winter cricket tour by England to New Zealand, starting in mid-February, to replace the cancelled tour to India were reported to be near to completion last night. Page 48

TIMES FOCUS

Airlines are winning record passenger levels and plane-makers are swamped with orders but clouds are looming over the financial future says a Special Report. Pages 31, 32

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European Court rules against Britain's anti-terrorist laws

By Michael Dynes, Frances Gibb and Peter Evans

Anti-terrorist laws used by the Government to detain suspects for seven days breach the European Convention on Human Rights, it was ruled yesterday.

The decision is a severe blow to the Government's tough stand against terrorism in Northern Ireland.

Four men had appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg after being held for more than four days before being brought before a court and then released without charge.

The court found that even

the shortest detention in the case fell foul of the "strict constraints of the time permitted by the notion of promptness". The ruling could force the Government to redraft

the Bill now in Parliament that will replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1974.

The Government may seek derogation from the European Convention on grounds of national security to avoid complying with the ruling.

Such a move, used to

introduce internment in the 1970s, would be controversial. Under it the Government can give notice that it will not comply with its Convention obligations because there is a "time of war or other public emergency threatening the life of the nation".

Other options are: reducing from seven days to four the period of detention that a suspected terrorist might be held without being brought before a judicial authority; or to require extensions to a detention to come before a judicial authority.

Steel may offer a small premium

By Michael Clark
Stock Market
Correspondent

Steadier conditions on the London stock market yesterday may enable British Steel to achieve a small premium in first-time dealings on Monday - but it may not be enough to attract short-term speculators.

Last night the shares in their partly-paid form were being quoted 1p higher on the day at 66p by the IG Index, the

manoeuvres of the market this week will be crucial to the flotation. Some have urged private clients to take a longer term view of the company. City institutions will leave it up to the last minute before applying for shares.

Investors must make an initial payment of 60p with the balance due on September 26, next year. Dealers are hoping for an opening price of 65p, which may not prove attractive enough to the "sage" who will be looking to make a quick killing. Comment, page 27

Hume upset by delay on embryo legislation

By Clifford Longley and Martin Fletcher



Cardinal Hume: Expressing the concern of bishops.

Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster has protested to the Prime Minister at the omission from the Queen's Speech of legislation to control experiments on human embryos.

He urged her to allow Parliamentary time to be given as soon as possible "because of the urgency of bringing this matter within the ambit of public law".

The plea was endorsed yesterday by Professor Robert Edwards of the Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridgeshire, a world pioneer of embryology. "Scientists cannot be left to make their own decisions," he said. "I do not like creating research embryos. I would, if they were sanctioned by some sort of authority."

Lady Warnock, who chaired a com-

mittee of inquiry which reported in 1984, said yesterday: "I think there should be legislation. I cannot really see what is holding it back."

The Conservative Party promised in its election manifesto to introduce a Bill this Parliament. A 1987 White Paper proposed alternative clauses to permit or outlaw scientific experiments on embryos. Nearly 100 MPs of all parties have already signed a motion calling for such legislation as soon as possible.

The White Paper suggested that the choice between outlawing research or restricting it to the first weeks of embryonic life should be left to a free vote in Parliament by tabling alternative clauses MPs could choose between, in the context of a government Bill.

Cardinal Hume points out that the

Gorbachov pledge of more freedom

Moscow (Reuters) - President Gorbachov pledged yesterday that his country's restless republics would gain new freedom from central control under a wide-ranging reform programme creating a "new, democratic Soviet Union".

Mr Gorbachov told the federal parliament, the Supreme Soviet, that his perestroika programme had "literally blown up the illusory peace and harmony which reigned supreme in this country in the years of terror, started up free-wheeling debate and put the spotlight on many urgent and even painful issues".

He said that the people of all the 15 union republics "should have full confidence that the problems that worry them... will find a fair solution within the framework of perestroika".

But representatives of Baltic Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia signalled that they wanted

action to ensure their rights and maintained their resistance to the shape of a new state structure promoted by the President.

Mr Gorbachov was presenting his ground-breaking blueprint for political change, which includes the creation of a new two-tier parliament with real power and an executive presidency, while in-

Photograph 8
EEC dilemma 8

Introducing multi-candidate elections.

Under the reforms, he told the session's 1,500 deputies, the President would be endowed with the authority to organize the work of a revamped Supreme Soviet sitting for two long sessions for several months every year.

"But, excessive concentration of power in one person would still be ruled out," he said.

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In a black stained wooden box, the Berkley canteen of six table knives and forks, dessert knives, forks and spoons, soup spoons, teaspoons and two table spoons, has been reduced from £140 to £99.

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habitat

NEWS ROUNDUP

Children 'change after pollution'

Children in Camelford, north Cornwall, show symptoms of personality changes which make them "difficult and unruly" since local water supplies were accidentally contaminated with tons of aluminium. Dr Robert Newman, a general practitioner in the town, said yesterday.

He said he had found about six cases where a child's behaviour had radically altered, or ability at school had been affected. The number of local people known to be suffering from loss of memory had trebled since the accident last July, he added. After 20 tons of aluminium sulphate were pumped into the wrong tank at the Lowermoor water treatment works more than 7,000 homes received contaminated drinking water and there were many cases of nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, blisters, mouth ulcers and sore throats.

Dr Newman said he had no proof that pollution caused the behavioural changes. "If our worst fears are confirmed then aluminium has to be looked at in the same context as lead. But it may take a year or so to sort out."

School mourns Anna

School friends paid tribute yesterday to Anna Humphries, the teenager whose body was recovered on Sunday from the River Severn. The 490 pupils at Maelor High School in the Welsh border village of Penley, where Anna was a fifth former, held two services to her memory. It was the first day back at school since Anna's body was found after three weeks of searching the Shropshire countryside. The children sang Anna's favourite hymn, chosen by her parents who were not at the service, and Mr Geoffrey Mason, the headmaster, read the 23rd psalm and led prayers.

RUC man finds bomb

A Northern Ireland policeman avoided death yesterday when he noticed a bomb attached to the underside of his car outside his home. A police spokesman said the Royal Ulster Constabulary officer not only saved his own life by looking under his car, but also those of children living next door, who were leaving for school. Fifty families were evacuated from their homes in Crumlin, Co Antrim, for several hours while Army bomb disposal officers defused the bomb, which contained 1½lb of Semtex and shrapnel.

Gold day for palms

A display of palms at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show in London brought a gold medal to the Palm Centre of south-west London (Alan Toogood writes). Gold medals also went to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for a preview of its of tropical and sub-tropical flowering and foliage plant exhibit for next year's Chelsea Flower Show, and Burncoose and Southdown Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, for trees, shrubs and plants.

Pubs ban offender

All 42 publicans in Bridgwater, Somerset, have banned a man who admitted assaulting a landlady, but who magistrates refused to ban from the town's licensed premises because such an order would ruin his social life. The publicans have banned Stephen Treasure, aged 23, a timber yard supervisor, for 12 months. His name has been put on a blacklist poster displayed in every public house. Treasure was fined £300 and ordered to pay £10 compensation when he admitted causing actual bodily harm to a landlady and damaging her dress.

European Court ruling a setback to security

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The judgement by the European Court of Human Rights, backing four Ulstermen who were held by police in 1984 for more than four days without charge under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, was greeted with dismay by security sources in Belfast yesterday.

They said that the seven-day maximum period allowed under the Act for questioning terrorist suspects had given the police valuable extra time to investigate their backgrounds.

Official figures show that since 1974 when the Act came into force, nearly 2,000 suspects detained for more than 48 hours and up to seven days were charged with terrorist offences.

Without the length of detention possible under the Act, and the opportunities it gave for further

inquiries, many suspects would not be brought to justice, security sources said.

One Belfast source, reacting to the judgement, said: "These people are trained to withstand interrogation. But in many cases useful information has been gleaned in the final day or so of the extended period."

Under the European Human Rights Convention anyone arrested on suspicion of terrorism must be brought "promptly" before a court.

Security sources emphasized that terrorist suspects were always interrogated humanely and under strict regulations. They could be questioned only for a certain number of hours at a time; the interviews were conducted by two people with a senior officer of at least inspector rank watching on closed circuit television; and they were entitled to a medical examination before and after the interrogation. The seven

day maximum is subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The full figures from December 1974 to this month, show that 9,636 men and women have been detained under the Act, of whom 5,087 were kept for longer than 48 hours; 1,966 of those 5,087 were later charged, compared to 969 charged within 48 hours. The rest were released.

The Northern Ireland Office said that so far this year 1,569 people had been detained under the Act, 437 for between 48 hours and seven days. In 1987 the figures were 1,459 (451 for more than 48 hours), in 1986, 1,309 (483), and in 1985, 938 (557). In 1975, the first full year of the Act, eight were detained, five for an extended period.

A more detailed breakdown, for the first three months of this year, reveals how Ulster police have used the Act. A total of 411 people were

detained, of whom 85 were charged; 62 were held for between four and seven days of whom 35 were charged with terrorist offences and 27 released.

Of those arrested and held for 48 hours, 40 were charged and 266 released. Of those held for between 48 hours and seven days, 45 were charged and 60 released.

Of those held for two days but less than three, two were charged and six released; between three and four days, eight charged, 27 released; four and five days, 23 charged, 19 released; five and six days, one charged, two released; six and seven days, 11 charged, six released.

Earlier this year when the annual renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act was debated in the Commons, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said: "The people of Northern Ireland suffer more from terrorism than any of the rest of us."

It is overwhelmingly in their interest that terrorism should be checked and then crushed.

"It is inevitable that the powers needed for that purpose should occasionally bear on innocent people, causing delay, inconvenience and controversy. But the powers are not aimed at those innocent people; they are aimed at their oppressors — the terrorists."

Last year Mr Hurd asked Lord Colville of Culross to investigate the effectiveness of the legislation. Lord Colville endorsed the power to hold suspects for up to seven days. He said it was being used in a fair and reasonable manner.

In March 1979, Mr Merlyn Rees, then Home Secretary, said in the Commons: "Unpleasant as are the powers contained in the Act, they are, in my view, necessary in order to prevent the far more serious consequences of terrorist violence."

Ryan dispute will dominate summit

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The dispute between Britain and Belgium over Father Patrick Ryan will take a new twist at the EEC summit in Rhodes on Friday when Mrs Margaret Thatcher is due to sit next to Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian prime minister.

Her strong displeasure over the Belgian government's refusal to extradite Father Ryan seems certain to emerge. Whitehall sources declined to predict yesterday whether she would take him to task, but even if she does not, Mr Martens will be well aware of her feelings.

Because the delegations are arranged in alphabetical order around the summit table, the Belgians are automatically seated next to the British.

It would take only a frosty Thatcher glance to remind him that the Government feels deeply let down. But officials in Whitehall were using much stronger language yesterday: one senior source said that Belgium had shown weakness in the face of a difficult decision.

It became known yesterday that Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, telephoned Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian foreign minister, to express dismay soon after the Belgian

How do Britain's anti-terrorist laws compare with emergency police powers elsewhere in Europe? Spain has just halved the period under which police can hold suspects incommunicado from 10 days. France, in common with Britain and the Irish Republic, has non-jury Court d'Assize to try terrorist offences. French police can detain a suspect for four days without charge and then apply to a magistrate for a three-day extension. In Belgium arrest warrants for suspects held without charge are reviewed by a judicial council.

cabinet's decision last Friday. Sir Geoffrey was among the first to hear of it.

British sources disputed Belgian claims that the decision was based on advice from its own legal experts that the case presented against Father Ryan was not strong enough. The experts had given the opposite opinion in contacts with their British counterparts.

"We were led to understand that they felt it fully stood up", one official said. The decision was described as a "failure of political will" by Brussels. The British dismissed Belgian and

Irish suggestions that the British case was vague, lacking precise dates and places for the offences alleged against Father Ryan.

The source said it was normal in such cases for a time span to be presented, rather than a specific date, because parties to an alleged conspiracy usually conferred over a period of time.

The dismay was all the greater because Belgium has in the past been a trusted ally in the war against terrorism, acting through the "Trevi Group" system of inter-governmental liaison.

The Ryan case is also certain to dominate talks which Mrs Thatcher is to hold with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister. They are due to meet on Friday morning, before the summit begins.

Officials said that the working of the Anglo-Irish agreement would be one of the main subjects.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, is expected to raise the Ryan case today with a group of 12 Belgian MPs. The group, a select committee on violent crime and terrorism, is on a three-day visit to study British police methods for tackling terrorism.

Portrait of a fighter

TOM KIDD



Mr Mick McGahey, former Scottish miners' leader, with his portrait by Maggi Hambling.

By Kerry Gill

Mr Mick McGahey, the former Scottish miners' leader, yesterday saw his portrait by the artist, Maggi Hambling, unveiled at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

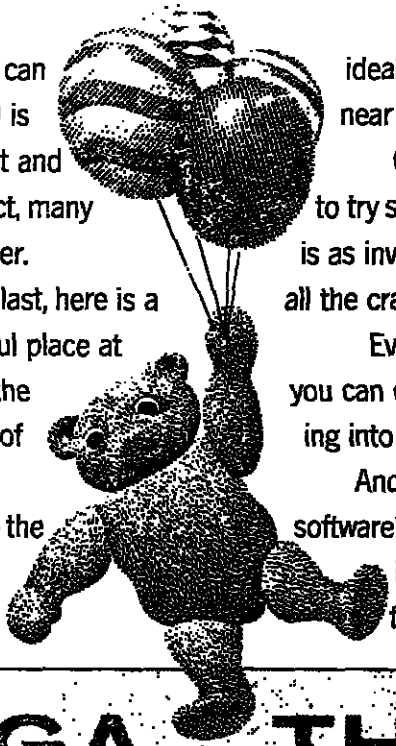
Mr McGahey's portrait joins a series of paintings of eminent contemporaries commissioned by the gallery. Mr McGahey retired as vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers last year and is a trustee of the Scottish Mining Museum.

Maggi Hambling, formerly first artist-in-residence at the National Gallery in London, is known for her portraits of Max Wall, the historian, A J P Taylor, and the chemist, Dorothy Hodgkin. She painted Mr McGahey's portrait during a week of sittings.

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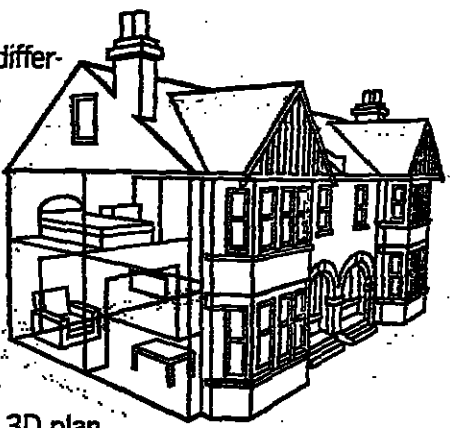
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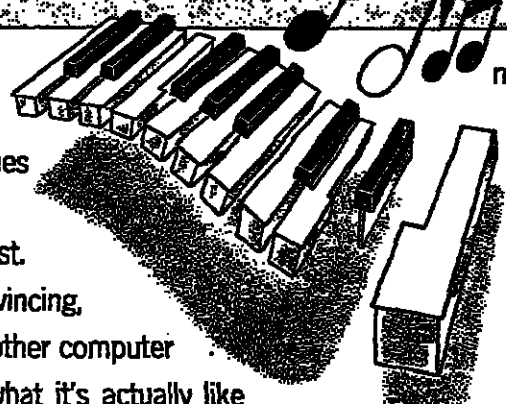
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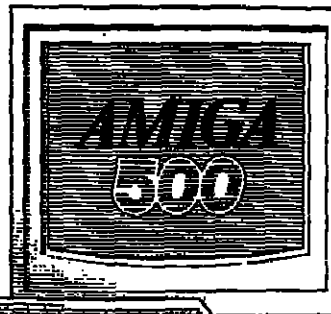
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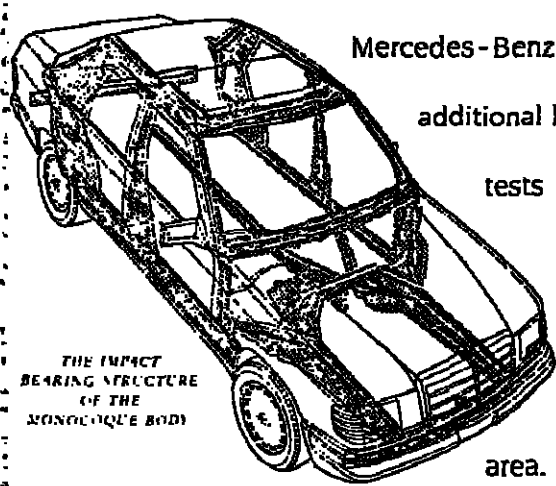
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Although government legislation requires all car manufacturers to test for 100% head-on collision,



Mercedes-Benz also carry out additional head-on collision tests when the impact is concentrated on 40% of the car's frontal area. In Germany for

example, research has shown this accident happens three times more frequently than 100% head-on collisions. As a result, all Mercedes-Benz safety cells and crumple zones are now engineered to disperse the unique stresses of both types of collision. Which means impact energy is absorbed progressively and displaced into forked longitudinal members mounted onto extremely rigid sidewall, floor pan and transmission tunnel structures. The energy is therefore dissipated by being transmitted and absorbed in three different directions.

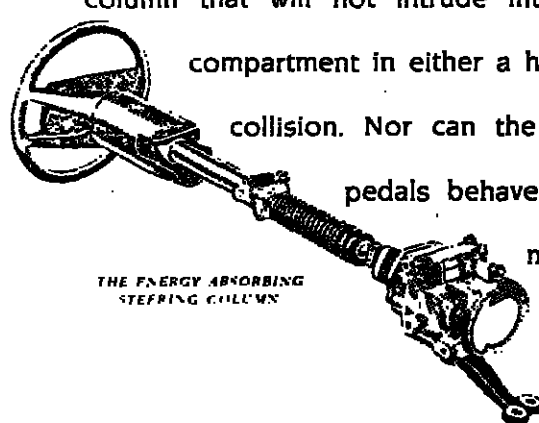
This is a fine example of Mercedes-Benz research and engineering taking the lead in safety development.

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Mercedes-Benz conduct a crash test every three days, on average. Because safety research is an integral part of the Mercedes-Benz design process, many tests are conducted on components and prototypes prior to full scale production of a new model.

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The Mercedes-Benz safety steering system, as an example, is fitted with a distorting cup within the steering wheel, and a collapsible, corrugated column that will not intrude into the passenger compartment in either a head-on or off-set collision. Nor can the clutch or brake pedals behave like blunt instruments. Because of the likelihood of severe accident injuries to the feet, the pedals are designed to swing away from the driver on impact.



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The history of Mercedes-Benz safety consciousness dates from 1931 when they developed independent front suspension to ensure safer roadholding. And as long as thirty-seven years ago, long before 'crumple zone' and 'safety cell' became part of car industry jargon, Mercedes-Benz patented the first impact-absorbing body shell. But rather than protect the patent in their own

interests, Mercedes-Benz allowed it to be infringed in everybody's interests, so other car makers could incorporate the idea into their own body designs. A gesture that speaks for itself.

In 1959, Mercedes-Benz became the first manufacturer to systematically crash test and roll-over test their cars. In that year, 80 were destroyed in



SCIENTIFIC CRASH TESTING: CIRCA 1959

the search for greater passenger security. Since then, no car maker has placed greater emphasis on crash testing, and many others reap the benefits simply by adopting the results of Mercedes-Benz pioneering research.

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HOW THE USE OF AIR CAN REDUCE INJURY RISK

All inertia-reel safety belts fitted to the front seats of Mercedes-Benz cars, have electronic belt tensioners as standard. Above a predetermined level of impact, the tensioner is activated and pulls the belt taut around the body in milliseconds, reducing forward movement of driver and front seat passenger. Above certain speeds, however, impact injuries can still occur no matter how sophisticated the seat belts are.



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Therefore, Mercedes-Benz also offer an electronically controlled airbag that is neatly stowed in the steering wheel hub. This innovative safety feature has been available since 1981 and is already fitted to 400,000 Mercedes-Benz cars. A normally invisible guardian, it inflates in milliseconds, under impact, to cushion the driver's head and greatly reduce the risk of chest injuries. Further proof that the Mercedes-Benz commitment to safety is uncompromising, and continues unabated.



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John 11/30/88

Home Secretary given fresh evidence on Guildford bombings

New witnesses support alibi of Irishman jailed for life

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, has been presented with new evidence on another of the four people serving life sentences for the Guildford public house bombings.

The evidence on Gerard Conlon is believed to be one of the main reasons why Mr Hurd has delayed a final decision on the case.

There is now considerable material to corroborate Conlon's alibi that he was not at the Surrey town on October 5, 1974 but spent the day drinking in the betting shop and doing his laundry at the hotel in London where he stayed.

Five witnesses have been traced who were not interviewed at the time of the trial. They confirm his account of his movements throughout that day.

Two other witnesses have been traced who can give evidence of Conlon's condition while he was in Godalming and Guildford police stations. Medical evidence has been found that just before his arrest, pain-killing drugs and antibiotics were being prescribed for him, but were discontinued while he was in custody.

Conlon's lawyers said there were a number of defects in the case against him.

First, if, as alleged, he had sought to construct a false alibi, he would not have sent his solicitors to interview witnesses about the wrong week-end. It was only several months after his arrest, when reminded that a particular

A powerful attack on the validity of the convictions of four people for the Guildford public house bombings in 1974 is made in *The Times* today by two of the country's most distinguished judges, Lord Devlin and Lord Scarman.

In arguably the strongest case for a re-appraisal of the case to date, the two retired law lords argue that the convictions rest on a fundamental flaw in that the four

Justice and Guildford...16

were effectively deprived of the right to a fair trial by jury.

Between the original trial and the appeal in the wake of the Balcombe Street siege, four new witnesses appeared, who had committed 26 massacres of the same type. They claimed to have carried out the Guildford bombings.

The question of whether they were lying was never put to a jury, the law lords say.

Carole Richardson, Paddy Armstrong, Paul Hill and Gerard Conlon were convicted in 1975 of the bombings in

horse had run on a particular day, that Conlon started to think of his movements on the correct week-end.

Second, the case rested entirely on Conlon's confession, with no supporting evidence. The confessions of the four, which they said were given under police pressure, are contradictory and inaccurate in terms of known facts.

Third, the confession was made by an unreliable personality which, taken with his

unstable lifestyle, made him an unlikely candidate for use by the IRA.

Fourth, in the light of the new evidence, his conviction should not be allowed to stand merely because he had been unable categorically to prove he was not at the bombing. No witnesses who might have lent credence to his account were called.

Fifth, detailed and persuasive confessions to the Guildford and Woolwich bombings

were later made by IRA activists after the Balcombe Street siege.

Mr Hurd has already been presented with evidence from a delegation led by Cardinal Hume and including two former law lords, Lord Devlin and Lord Scarman, and two former Home Secretaries, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Mr Merlyn Rees.

In a renewed plea for an urgent decision on the case last week, the delegation drew attention to evidence that one of the four, Carole Richardson, was given an injection of pentothal (an anaesthetic) claimed to act as a truth drug shortly before making the confession on which alone she was convicted; and to medical evidence as to the effect of this on her state of mind. This and other evidence "unquestionably warrant a re-investigation of the case", the delegation said.

Dr Kasimir Makos, a GP who examined Richardson soon after her arrest, has said he gave her opiate and barbiturate drugs 20 minutes before she confessed.

His evidence has been obtained by Dr James MacKeith, a leading consultant psychiatrist who has drawn up an assessment of Richardson. Mr Hurd now has the assessment.

In his report Dr MacKeith said Richardson, at the time of her arrest, was an emotionally maladjusted 17-year-old who was "exceptionally vulnerable" and unusually suggestible. Her confessions, under the use of drugs, were made with no adult or solicitor present.

Classic look for Moscow home



By Charles Kaevit
Architecture Correspondent

The competition-winning design for a new residency for the British Ambassador in Moscow was unveiled at the Foreign Office in London last night. Mr Julian Bicknell, who designed the classical building, was selected from a shortlist of eight contenders.

The residency, which will cost £3 million at current prices, is unlikely to start on site for another four years.

Mr Bicknell says it has the domestic scale and informality of a desirable suburban residence, but it is also clearly influenced by sixteenth-century Italian and eighteenth-century English architecture.

Mr Bicknell's design will be built on a one-acre site in a residential district which also houses the residence of the United States Ambassador and the Somali Embassy.

Launched in March, the competition attracted 187 inquiries and 112 entries. A shortlist of 14 architects was drawn up. Among those interviewed were Barry Gasson, architect of the Burrell Museum, Glasgow; Edward Cullinan, whose work was once endorsed by the Prince of Wales; and the young practice of Allies and Morrison, who came second in the competition.

Mr Bicknell said: "This was a complicated diplomatic exercise resulting from a 10-page brief which was a model of its kind. Moscow planners laid down stringent parameters so that any new building would not be more than three storeys in height and relate to the special character of its location".

The judges, including the Duke of Gloucester and Sir Bryan Cartledge, the British Ambassador to Moscow, made it clear that Mr Bicknell's design was chosen by a majority decision, as "no single scheme was outstanding".



Top: Mr Julian Bicknell and fellow architects Mr Steve Chapman (left) and Mr Chris Hay (right), with the winning design for the residency of the British Ambassador in Moscow. Above: the south elevation of the building which will be put up in the area around the Church of the Transfiguration, the home of the capital's intelligentsia before the 1917 Revolution (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Don urges reform of Oxford exams

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

A senior don has called on Oxford University authorities to reform the examination system to prevent students being at the mercy of the subjective views of over-harsh or over-sympathetic examiners.

Mr Jonathan Wordsworth, a fellow at St Catherine's College and lecturer in English, said yesterday that recent fluctuations in the number of students gaining first class degrees in English could not be put down to variations in the average intelligence of undergraduates in each year.

"Last year 9.2 per cent of students sitting schools (finals) got firsts but over the last 13 years the level has been between 14.3 and 16.4 per cent", Mr Wordsworth said. He was an examiner for nine years and chairman of the English faculty examiners for four years.

"This cannot be explained by saying that last year we had a duff crop of students. The students come from the same backgrounds and take the same exams to come here."

"The chances are that the examiners were a little tougher in 1983 and have stuck too slavishly to the philosophy that they should be judged by absolute standards rather than

against one another." Mr Wordsworth called for university examiners to find a way of achieving a "consensus on the proportion of firsts across the board".

Last year 24 per cent of engineers made it into the top grade against the 9.2 per cent of English students.

Mr Wordsworth would like a system known as "norm referencing" for individual subjects at each college or university, which would mean class placings or grades were awarded to a fixed percentage of people sitting the exam.

This, he said, would ensure that careers were not jeopardized by harsh examiners.

A spokeswoman for the university said it was unlikely that faculties would take Mr Wordsworth's theories seriously because they were committed to judging students by absolute standards and not against one another.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said such a move would be "retrograde". "A norm referencing system would be more *ad hoc* than using examiner's discretion because one's degree results would depend on what sort of a group one was in, not on one's ability," a spokeswoman said.

Marks' managers help to train head teachers

By David Tyler, Education Editor

Senior managers from Marks & Spencer have been called in to improve the training of head teachers. They will form part of a task force launched yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Training of head teachers, Mr Baker said, has been "patchy and of variable quality".

The two Marks & Spencer executives - who have been training staff - and the three other members of the School Management Task Force will be seconded from their full-time jobs. They will work half-time for the Department of Education for three years, giving management training to the 50,000 heads and deputies in England and Wales.

Mr Baker said: "They have a very challenging job to do and it may be that they will need longer than three years. I have already set aside £4 million for training this year with £10 million next year and £10 million the year after, but it may be that the task force will recommend that we spend more."

Under the Education Reform Act "headteachers would have to be managers as well as teachers and face a heavy burden".

Mr David Syon, director of North-west Educational Management in Cheshire, and the task force leader, said: "The current training courses are not coherent, are not planned, and are not readily

accessible for those people who want to use them. We will work with the local authorities to see exactly what is required and the best way to provide them."

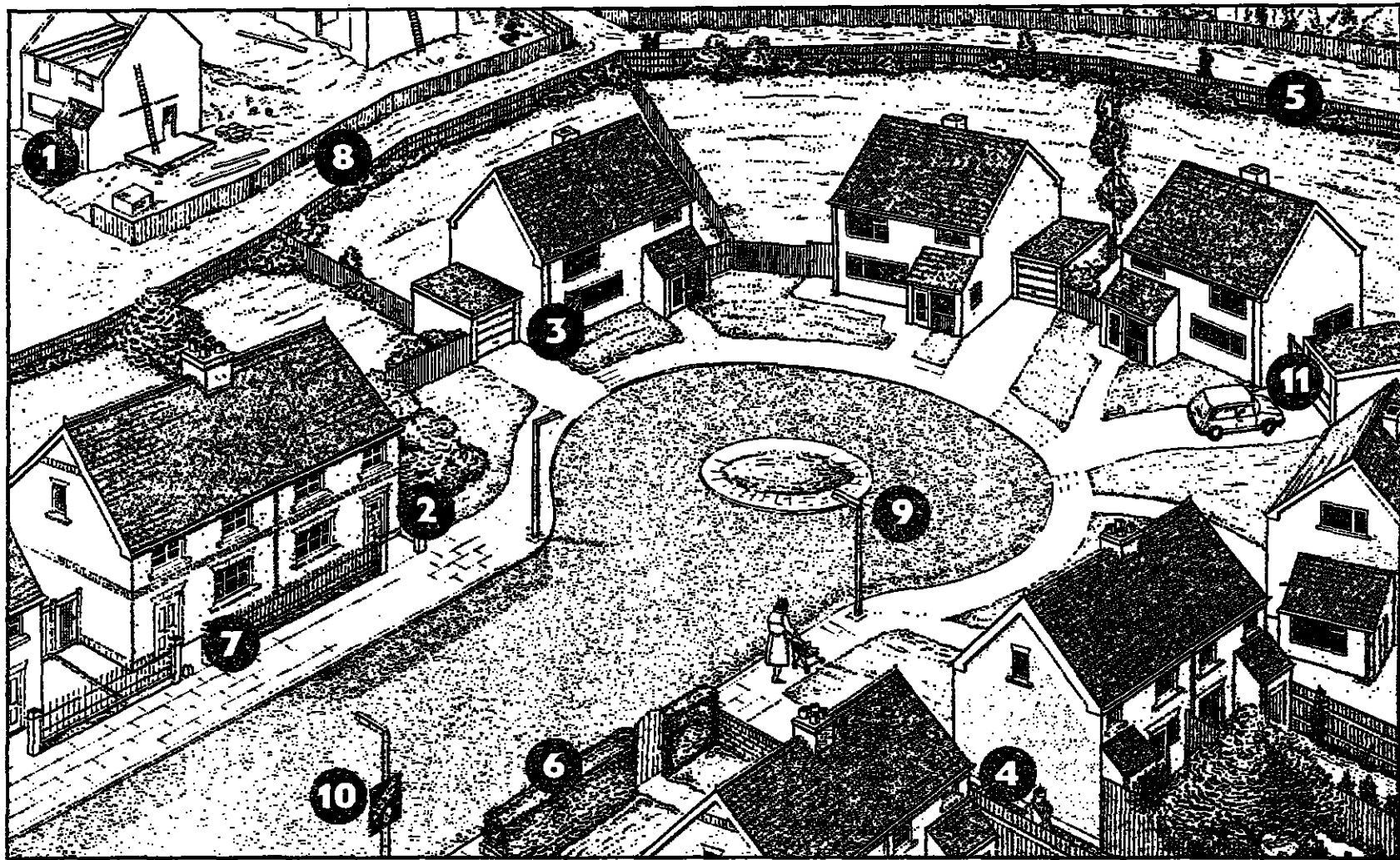
The task force begins work early next year and will produce an interim report by April. Its other members are Miss Jo Oliver and Mrs Ros Page (Marks & Spencer), Mr Keith Foreman, principal of Bureigh Community College, Loughborough, Leicestershire, and Dr Tony Bailey, director of the School of Education at Sussex University. A primary school head teacher is to be appointed shortly.

Girls keep their school records better than boys, according to a report published yesterday. It says girls are "generally more forthcoming and more skilled at sharing responsibility".

The report reviews pilot schemes set up in 22 schools to finalize plans for the keeping of detailed records of pupils' activities and achievements. They are in preparation for a national scheme to be introduced in all secondary schools by 1990.

One teacher said boys found "one-to-one discussion with a teacher almost unbearable, especially with the topic of discussion being themselves, and treated such interviews as ordeals to be endured rather than as opportunities to chat".

Records of Achievement, Report of the National Evaluation of Pilot Schemes (Stationery Office: £19.95).



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2. Doors which appear secure to a layman, can seem flimsy to a burglar. Sturdy doors with security deadlocks can foil most burglars.

3. Open or unprotected windows can allow easy access. Fitting - and using - window locks, is a proven deterrent.

4. Passages can become convenient entry or escape routes for burglars. Fitting a high lockable gate across the path hinders them.

5. Low walls at the rear of a building can be dangerously easy to scale. Ideally they should be at least 6' high.

6. On the other hand, high hedges in front of a house can, unfortunately, provide privacy and seclusion for a criminal as well as for the occupants.

7. Burglars are attracted by signs of an unoccupied home: no lights after dark or several days milk or newspapers at the door. Lights or radio on a time-switch can help and cancelling the milk and papers when away is essential.

8. Dark unlit paths and alleyways can conceal more than puddles. Outside lights can make everyone feel a lot safer. If it is public land, the matter should be raised with the landlords or the authorities.

9. Unlit or broken street lamps also need to be pointed out quickly to those responsible.

10. Joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch - or getting together with others in the area to share ideas - is a key to tailoring crime prevention to local circumstances.

11. Anyone buying a new car should check that it has up-to-date security built in. Even then, remembering to lock doors, shut windows and remove or hide tempting objects is important. And parking off the street in a garage, or even on a driveway, is safer.

12. The free Crime Prevention Handbook details several dozen more ideas. Phone or send for it now.

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Red Cross calls for help with increase in natural disasters

By Tony Dawe

The industrialized nations should do more to help the poor to prepare for natural disasters, which increasingly are seen as linked to man's destruction of the environment, a leading Red Cross figure said at a conference in London yesterday.

Mr Par Stenback, secretary general of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said that research indicated a 25 per cent rise in the number of disasters between the 1960s and 1970s, with a further 50 per cent rise between the 1970s and 1980s.

The Emergency '88 Congress, attended by delegates from 40 nations, has been called to make recommendations for an international code of training and education for handling disasters to be adopted in colleges and training centres.

Mr Stenback said his organization had "faced catastrophe almost every day" in the past four months, with hurricanes sowing havoc across the Caribbean and Latin America, a typhoon hitting the Philippines, and floods in Africa and Asia.

"We fear that the disasters of the past four months are not an isolated experience", Mr Stenback said.

"The founding fathers of the league would undoubtedly

A firm indication that the Government will reject calls for a national disaster squad was given yesterday by Lord Ferrers, Minister of State at the Home Office.

Opening the conference, the minister said government policy was for disasters to be handled at local level with Whitehall providing resources if required. He said, however, that the Home Office was studying ways of dealing with disasters and would be considering the findings of a private seminar at the Civil Defence College last week.

The seminar stopped far short of recommending the appointment of a national disaster co-ordinator supported by a team of advisers. It did, however, suggest that an emergency committee might be formed in Whitehall.

have referred to such events as 'Acts of God'. Today we must increasingly see them as 'Acts of Man' - the destruction of the environment, the pollution of the forests, the pollution of the atmosphere with carbon dioxides and chlorofluorocarbons."

He said three specific measures should be taken. Governments should spend money helping developing na-

tions to help themselves before disaster strikes, instead of just offering relief afterwards. He said the Red Cross needed enormous quantities of simple supplies such as plastic sheeting to provide roofs, and blankets to keep people warm, rather than sophisticated rescue equipment.

He also called on governments to "exercise a little patience" before deciding how best to help specific disasters. "We still receive supplies which we don't need. We receive medications, sometimes in languages unknown in the country in which we are operating. We receive food-stuffs where food can be bought locally for cash and where to release external supplies on the market would only ruin local farmers."

Mr M'Hamed Essafi, a leading United Nations official attending the conference, emphasized the need for more investment and thought to be given to the planning for potential disasters. He said: "Prevention must play an ever greater role in both pre-investment and development programmes."

He added that a study had shown that effective disaster mitigation programmes can save up to 3 per cent of the gross national product of developing countries.

High reward for young sleuths



Two teenage detectives taking to the skies over Birmingham in a police helicopter yesterday, as a reward for helping the West Midlands force catch an armed gang. Gregory Jones, aged 13, (right) and Phillip Left, aged 14, from Acocks Green, Birmingham, saw the raiders, one of them carrying a shotgun, fleeing after a post office robbery. They

noted the registration, colour and make of their car and gave police accurate descriptions of the men. The information led officers to the getaway driver's home and the gang members were arrested. They had stolen thousands of pounds in several raids in Birmingham over a period of months, and beaten up and threatened to kill a police officer during

one robbery before stealing his police car to escape. The three members of the gang were later jailed for between eight-and-a-half and 12 years. Det Sergeant Adrian Bowers said: "Without the help of these boys our job would have been made very difficult indeed". Gregory said: "I watch Police Five and they always ask people to make a note of anything suspicious".

New rural town idea condemned at inquiry

By John Young

Proposals to build a new country town called Stone Bassett near the M40, east of Oxford, were called "wholly unacceptable" at a public inquiry which opened yesterday.

Mr Michael Rich, QC, for Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, said that far from alleviating the housing shortage, it would create a big new growth point between London and Oxford, in an area of considerable landscape value where county planning policies called for restrained growth.

Consortium Developments, a group of nine of Britain's largest house builders, wants to build a town of 5,500 homes.

More than 1,100 objections have been received. The inquiry is expected to last at least six weeks.

Juice recall

Safeway stores yesterday asked shoppers to return one litre cartons of long-life mandarin juice because they may have been contaminated by cleaning fluid used by the supplier to sanitize production equipment.

Appeal delay

The hearing of the newsboy murder appeal was yesterday adjourned until today because one of the barristers was unwell. Mr Graham Laughland, QC, represents one of three men convicted of murdering Carl Bridgewater.

Epping Forest by-election

No escape on the Lawson question

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Something approaching panic crossed the smooth features of the Conservative candidate in the Epping Forest by-election yesterday when he was asked when the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be visiting the constituency.

Mr Steven Norris looked anxiously at the "minder" sitting alongside him and, when reassurance was not forthcoming, hesitated before replying: "I believe he is coming".

He had clearly hoped that by sticking to local issues and talking at length about health care in the constituency, the subject of the record balance of payments deficit and the increase in interest rates might perhaps be avoided.

There was no escape. The minder, Mr Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, brusquely directed all inquiries about the plans of Mr Nigel Lawson to the press office.

But aware that their uncertainty over the beleaguered Chancellor's campaign intentions could lead to further embarrassment, Mr Burns insisted: "He is planning to come. He would normally be here for a press conference."

Mr Norris added: "I will be delighted to see the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He is a valued colleague."

In a constituency where 63 per cent own their homes, Mr Norris then defended the interest rate rise, saying one of the consequences was to stop the rapid escalation in property prices - which would be welcomed by home buyers. Making a virtue out of the latest rise, he pitched for the votes of pensioners comprising 18 per cent of the voters.

"We ought never to forget that for a significant number of people, who have paid off a mortgage and look to an investment income to supplement their pension, higher interest rates are by no means a bad thing."

And just to ensure that he had not forgotten the homeowner who is likely to be affected an increase in mortgage rates in the new year, Mr Norris sympathized with their plight but assured everyone that Mr Lawson's action was taken to counter the problems of success rather than failure.

The SDP, meanwhile, attempted to claim the mantle of "the party of the homeowner" from the Conservatives.

Mr Michael Pettman outlined a package of measures aimed at financially assisting home owners by increasing mortgage tax relief to £40,000, and matching the savings of first-time buyers pound for pound up to a limit of £3,000.

Mr Andrew Thompson, the Democrats' candidate, was focusing on two of the more fashionable issues currently exercising the electorate's concern - the threat to the Green Belt and environment.

"We are very concerned about the effects of acid rain on the forest, and that is a central part of the constituency", Mr Charles Kennedy, the Democrats' MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye, said.

Labour did without the traditional daily press conference, claiming that theirs was a "flexible strategy aimed at highlighting the social issues".

General election: Sir John Birt, Conservative, 21,513; A Humphreys, Labour, 10,023; S Murray, SDP, 2,299; R. Hayward (Green), 698; C. majority: 21,513.

Moscow launches space centre visits

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Star City, the cosmonaut training and flight control centre outside Moscow, is being opened to British tourists.

Intourist launched the holiday, costing £999, on the first day of World Travel Market in London yesterday.

The show will be open to the public for the last time on Saturday. From next year it will be for trade visitors only.

Vying for a place in the limelight, the Scottish ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne announced that it would be going into the short cruise business.

York, the home of the Kit-Kat, announced the launch of a new attraction called The Chocolate Experience.

And the Falkland Islands, making the best of their assets, relied on pictures of elephant seals in improbably agile postures to draw crowds to their lonely beaches. The Maldives offered its leaflets in plain brown envelopes, without a word of advice on the islands' political troubles.

The Soviet Space Tours are

scheduled to lift off next summer.

The itinerary will include visits to the flight control room at Star City and to the museum dedicated to Academician SP Korolev, the man who put the first sputnik into space in 1957.

Tourists will also be able to see cosmonaut training sessions at an aquarium, where space walking is simulated.

The seven-day tour can be booked through travel agents or Intourist.

The price of the tour includes return flights from Gatwick, three days in Leningrad and four in Moscow with full board and additional excursions.

After the World Travel Market in London closes this weekend, the Northern Holiday and Travel Show, described in the trade as a holiday supermarket, will be the biggest show open to the public.

The 1989 show will be held at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester from January 12 to 15.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Pretoria finds late hitches on Angola

Johannesburg — Pretoria is raising last-minute, but probably not insuperable, difficulties over verification of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, ostensibly the only obstacle to Namibia's independence after 73 years of South African rule (Michael Hornsby writes). South African negotiators will leave for Brazzaville, the Congo capital, tomorrow to resume talks with Angolan and Cuban counterparts aimed at reaching agreement.

Dr Chester Crocker, the US mediator at the talks since they began in London in May, said in Brazzaville that he was hopeful that agreement could be reached. If the hitches are resolved, it is expected here that Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, will join other negotiators in Brazzaville on Friday for formal signing of the protocol.

Solzhenitsyn veto

Moscow (AFP) — Mr Vadim Medvedev, the Politburo member responsible since September 30 for ideology, yesterday vetoed publication in the Soviet Union of two important works by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled writer, as undermining the foundations of the Soviet state. He said that *The Gulag Archipelago* and *Lenin in Zurich* were works in which Solzhenitsyn developed a position "which radically contradicts our social and political system, our understanding of the world, our attitude to history and our revolution, and our attitude to Lenin".

Top psychiatrist quits

Washington — Dr Shervett Frazier, one of America's most distinguished psychiatrists, has resigned from Harvard Medical School after being accused of plagiarism in papers published between 1966 and 1975 (Christopher Thomas writes). He also quit as psychiatrist-in-chief and general director of McLean Hospital in Virginia, after a graduate student of his reported Dr Frazier, who served as director of the National Institutes of Mental Health, for having plagiarised four papers. He is believed to be the first Harvard faculty member ever to resign for plagiarism.

Bonn calls for joint airborne brigade as a Nato back-up

From John England, Bonn

West Germany is to propose the creation of a European airborne "fire brigade" division — consisting of British, Dutch, Belgian and West German troops — at the Nato defence ministers' two-day autumn conference in Brussels which begins tomorrow.

The West German Defence Ministry said yesterday that the mixed division, of about 15,000 men, would provide an urgently needed operational reserve in Nato's Northern Army Group (Northag) sector. But it would also be a "political signal" to those of West Germany's allies, including Britain, who wished for closer co-operation with the Bundeswehr in order not to lag behind growing military links between Bonn and Paris.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* said yesterday that the formation of a Franco-German brigade earlier this year had led to requests from Britain, The Netherlands and Belgium for similar co-operation.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said that Luxembourg had also expressed interest in closer military involvement with West Germany. Mr

George Younger, Britain's Defence Secretary, and Herr Rupert Scholz, the West German Defence Minister, announced in Bonn on October 4 the setting up of an Anglo-German study group on ways to improve bilateral military co-operation within Nato. But, they added, there was no thought of forming a British-German brigade.

Herr Scholz tabled the idea for a European division at a meeting of Nato's nuclear planning group in Scheveningen, October 26-28, for initial discussion by its military committee. He is expected to make a personal presentation in Brussels.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said: "The division would differ greatly from the Franco-German brigade, which has no specific tasks in Nato's defence planning because France does not belong to its military structure. The new formation would be an 'air cavalry' force to be used in the front line."

"A standard division consists of three brigades, but in this case such tasks as providing troop transport helicopters, armour, anti-tank

weapons, infantry and so on could be allotted to individual national units. That is one option in what at present is only an idea whose nuts and bolts will have to be worked out.

"That also applies to the question of the division's command structure. It should be integrated, of course, but we feel there should not be too much chopping and changing at the top among the nations."

It was thought in Bonn yesterday that no firm decision on the division would be taken in Brussels. The military committee was expected to be told to study the idea and present concrete proposals to next year's autumn conference.

● Call for effort: Herr Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, called here yesterday for greater defence efforts by the alliance's European members.

He said that, in certain fields of defence, the Europeans could do much more without straining their capabilities. American pressure for stronger European performances must be taken seriously, he added.

Gorbachov signals change



President Gorbachov addressing the Supreme Soviet in Moscow yesterday at the start of a three-day session convened to consider wide-ranging changes to the Soviet Constitution.

Countdown to Rhodes

EEC faces hard decisions on East-West links

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Amid last-minute preparations for the European Community heads of government meeting on the island of Rhodes, opening on Friday, Britain, its EEC partners and the European Commission were yesterday working to avoid the kind of "blood on the carpet" summit meetings which have been a feature of the past two years.

Officials say the meeting will be an occasion for reviewing progress toward the Single European Market in 1992 and Europe's place in the world.

But, despite an appeal by M Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, for leaders to avoid a disruptive meeting, senior EEC diplomats say the Community needs to resolve a "fundamental ideological difference" over East-West relations at a time of turbulence in the Soviet bloc. On one side is Britain, on the other West Germany and France.

The East-West issue comes to the fore because Mrs Thatcher is to meet President Gorbachov in London only a week after the meeting, and because a new president is to enter the White House.

Officials say that many of the issues the EEC now faces will not come to fruition until Spain chairs the next European summit meeting in Madrid in June.

But a "degree of serious skirmishing" is expected on Rhodes over such questions as economic and monetary union, creation of a European Bank, the 1992 "social dimension" and the need to avoid a protectionist "fortress Europe", on which Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister who will preside, is seeking a special Rhodes declaration. Diplomats say his considerable domestic problems could also prevent the meeting from reaching any firm decisions.

Greece's efforts to avoid controversy by focusing attention on the apparently innocuous question of Europe's international role could backfire because of EEC divisions in key areas, including the Middle East and, above all, relations with President Gorbachov's Soviet Union.

"In theory, 1992 coincides with liberalization in the Soviet bloc, opening up a vista of East-West co-operation across borders," one diplomat said. "But in practice, Western Europe is still far from united, not only on the nature of 1992 integration, but also on dealing with the East."

Other divisions concern areas ranging from arms control to trade. On Rhodes, Mrs Thatcher will debate the issue with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany and President Mitterrand of France, both of whom have recently visited Moscow.

European leaders are concentrating on Mr Gorbachov's economic difficulties and on the strains within the Soviet system caused by nationalist demonstrations.

On arms control, France is

floating the idea of a one-year or two-year "moratorium" in conventional arms development while East and West negotiate conventional arms reductions.

But British officials view this with scepticism and something bordering on dismay, arguing that a conventional arms "freeze" would take the pressure off Moscow to make concessions on conventional arms and on other East-West issues such as human rights.

A further contentious question is whether the EEC should support a Soviet proposal for a human rights conference in Moscow in 1991. Paris and Bonn have indicated their backing, but London is withholding approval until the Soviet Union makes further human rights concessions and until KGB repression ceases.

Underlying the European debate is an ideological rift over whether Mr Gorbachov,



Mr Papandreu: Host best by domestic difficulties

after nearly four years in power, should be given Western help to establish his reforms, or whether the West should stand back, exposing Soviet weaknesses and remaining ultra-cautious on the grounds that the authoritarian Soviet system has not changed in essentials.

Bonn, with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the veteran Foreign Minister, providing much of the driving force, will argue on Rhodes that under Mr Gorbachov Moscow is "retrenching" everywhere from Angola to Afghanistan, and that the Soviet President "should be taken at his word".

The Rhodes meeting coincides with the gathering in Brussels on Thursday and Friday of Nato defence ministers who will seek to resolve tensions over defence spending and "burden-sharing".

M Delors this week appealed to EEC leaders to resolve European strategy towards Moscow and to "stop trying to outbid each other" by making special national deals with the Soviet Union.

The diplomats believe European governments will find it difficult to co-ordinate a new strategy, particularly when Western publics believe the Soviet threat has been reduced and that the case for strengthened and modernized defences is unconvincing.

● Greek efforts to avoid controversy by focusing attention on apparently innocuous question of Europe's international role could backfire

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Senate Democrats choose a leader with magic touch

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Soon after President-elect George Bush met Republican Senate leaders to discuss legislative strategy and ways to reduce the federal deficit, the Democratic majority in the Senate elected Senator George Mitchell of Maine as their new leader.

The choice promises vigorous new leadership of the party by a liberal who has risen swiftly in the eight years he has been a senator. Senator Mitchell, aged 55, defeated Senator Bennett Johnston of Louisiana and Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii in a secret ballot of the 55 Democratic senators. He won 27 votes on the first ballot — one short of the majority — and the senators then agreed to consider the vote unanimous.

Senator Mitchell, who has promised constructive leadership to help solve the nation's budget and trade deficits, is an influential and telegenic figure who won support from most of the younger senators. He succeeded Senator Robert Byrd, who was Democratic leader for 12 years. Although relatively unknown in the country, his victory could put him in a good position to run for the Democratic nomination in the 1992 election.

President Reagan sent him a telegram of congratulation, and Mr Bush will also be eager

to get on good terms with him, after making his peace on Monday with Senator Robert Dole, who was elected unopposed to lead the Republicans.

After the luncheon meeting, Mr Dole said: "We're ready to go to work." One urgent decision they discussed was if the Bush Administration should submit its own version of President Reagan's final budget in January — which most advisers say cannot be done in time — or work with the Democratic-controlled Congress to achieve an early consensus and reassure jittery world markets.

Mr Bush brought with him Mr John Sununu, his White House Chief of Staff, and Mr Richard Darman, who as bud-



Senator Mitchell: Liberal now well placed for 1992.

get director will spearhead the effort to cut the deficit. Mr Bush said later that he had listened to the advice of the Senate Republicans.

They know there is no hope that Congress will pass the Reagan budget, but realize that the Democratic majority will not co-operate with Mr Bush unless he signals his readiness in advance for compromise, especially over a tax increase.

Among those attending the breakfast meeting was the Vice-President-elect, Mr Dan Quayle, who later had a meeting with Mr William Waldegrave, Britain's Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence. Mr Waldegrave is here to attend a Nato conference sponsored by the Institute of Foreign Policy Analysis.

Mr Quayle, who will have to resign his Indiana Senate seat when he becomes Vice-President in January, also took part in Senate elections held yesterday by the Republicans and Democrats for their party leadership in the Senate. The leaders will play key roles in deciding if the new session begins in confrontation or can grapple with economic and other issues on a bipartisan basis.

The Democratic race had been expected to be close

between the three candidates to succeed Senator Byrd, who was elected to the largely honorary position of President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Most Democrats would not say publicly beforehand who they would support in the secret ballot; at least one was reported to have assured all three they had his vote.

The three men represented different regions as well as offering different styles of leadership to the majority party. Senator Inouye, aged 64, was the oldest and most senior, and offered himself as the most experienced of the three. His liberal voting record was in line with traditional Democrats.

Senator Johnson, aged 56, was the most conservative of the three, and cited his Southern roots and parliamentary skill. Senator Mitchell was the favourite before the vote, promising a fresh start with a more vigorous appeal, especially on television. A former prosecutor and federal judge, he made a name for himself during the Iran-Contra hearings as a forceful speaker.

One Democrat, Senator Quentin Burdick of North Dakota, just re-elected at the age of 80 for another six years, was in hospital after collapsing on Monday.

Fear of further riots speeds political change in Algeria

Chadli presses on with reform

By Susan MacDonald



President Chadli, overshadowed by his own giant portrait, being applauded by delegates at the end of the congress.

Sweeping political reforms limiting the power of Algeria's ruling Front de Libération Nationale and confirming President Chadli as the party's candidate in the December presidential elections were approved by the party congress yesterday.

Failure to agree on the reforms, which also include opening up national and local elections to non-party candidates and elevating President Chadli from party secretary-general to president, risked causing a repetition of the October riots which left about 500 dead.

The military and FLN have ruled Algeria since victory in the war of independence from France 26 years ago. Although their agreement to reforms which will limit their own powers by separating party from state was inevitable, ruling party members were reluctant for the changes to go ahead.

The only major change that has occurred since the rioting by young people embittered by hardship and deprivation has been the number of civil associations which have sprung up to protect citizens against the excesses of the regime.

Before the two-day con-

ference began on Sunday President Chadli read a statement to the 5,000 assembled delegates assuming full responsibility for the riots. He also praised the role of the FLN even though, as a principal target of the rioters' wrath, it kept its head down throughout the troubles, and he praised the Army for stepping in to stop what, in his words, would have deteriorated into civil war.

The party congress named the President as their candidate for a third five-year term. The civil unrest has hastened the presidential elections, originally scheduled for next February. Voting will now take place on December 22.

President Chadli has distanced himself from the party by stepping into the newly-created position of party president. Other changes to the party structure include the scrapping of the Politburo.

President Chadli has stopped short of allowing other political parties into the arena, frightened that the more radical religious groups would gain a foothold. He wants, however, the FLN to open its doors to different factions — a return to the FLN's early idealism.

Gang warfare in the shadow of the White House

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Only a few miles from the White House a fierce gang war is turning Washington into one of America's most violent cities. The battles are as ferocious as the gangland killings in Chicago's bootleg whiskey wars in the 1920s, but this time the prize is crack.

It has been a bad month, with at least one murder a day as rival gangs fight over territory in the city's black sections.

There have already been 323 murders this year, the worst ever. The authorities are

● **Thousands live in fear as gunfire echoes throughout the city streets** ●

standing on the sidelines, unable to halt the blood-letting. Mr Maurice Turner, Washington's police chief, said: "I don't think there's anything we can do."

Large areas of the city are virtually beyond control, leaving hundreds of thousands of residents in fear as gunshots echo through streets taken over after dark by drug pushers and their clients.

A perverse "death watch" is going on as people wonder how high the figure will go by year's end. Some office workers are running unofficial lotteries. People are laying bets with each other on the final tally. August was the worst month with 40 killings — one every 18 hours — but November is close, with 36 so far.

The city has become inured to bloodshed. When the total of murders passed 287, the record set in 1969, the city reconciled itself to being one of the most violent places in the country. But while black areas are nightly terrorized, smart white districts remain comparatively safe and undisturbed. The population of Washington DC is only 660,000; it is more than 70 per cent black.

Mr Richard Bennett, professor of justice, law and society at the American University, said: "Washington is in a unique situation. There has been no established rulership over how most drugs are distributed here, and those territories are now being carved up."

Last weekend was typical. Eleven people died. The police had a lucky break on Saturday

afternoon when a patrol car spotted Craig Williams — wanted for five suspected murders — as he ambled down a street, whistling quietly. He leaped on a passing bus, pulled a gun on the driver, and attempted a getaway.

No Clint Eastwood film could have compared for action. Twenty police cars, sirens screaming, blocked corners and their occupants waited with shotguns, rifles and pistols. A vanload of commando-style police moved in. The bus careered through the streets as passengers screamed.

Williams finally dropped his gun and tried to hide among the terrified passengers. But it was too late. During questioning by detectives he refused to speak a single word, which was hardly surprising: police telephones were already busy with a deluge of anonymous calls threatening his life if he "grasped".

The police gave him a bulletproof vest for the journey to jail, where a battery of television cameras awaited him. "I got a fixed reputation that somebody done gave me," he said before lapsing into silence. "I didn't kill nobody."

The death toll has long since surpassed the number of Washington residents who died in Vietnam (241). Police say that at least 70 per cent of killings are drug-related, compared with 17 per cent three years ago.

The slaughter comes mainly from rival outsiders bringing in large quantities of cocaine, usually from New York or

● **This generation of black males is an endangered species** ●

Miami, to be processed locally into crack. Most gangs are from Jamaica, Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Crack has created a new market, because it is sold in such small quantities and at low prices. Young people are enticed into distribution.

Mr Isaac Fulwood, Washington's assistant police chief, said: "At the rate we're going, we could kill every young adult black male. This generation of black males is an endangered species."

Labour likely to agree new Shamir coalition

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The policy-making bureau of the Israeli Labour Party meets today to decide whether to press on with negotiations to form another coalition with the Likud group. The signs are that it will, now that Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, has accepted most Labour conditions.

His offer includes a senior ministry for Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, and the defence portfolio for Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour deputy leader. It also includes parity with Likud in a decision-making inner Cabinet.

Policy guidelines for the new government would remain the same as for the outgoing one, meaning no change in the stalemate over negotiating in

the peace process. Mr Shamir has been persuaded to make such a generous offer because he considers a coalition with Labour the lesser of two evils.

The alternative would be a narrow alliance with right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties, whose demands would be so unpopular that Likud would suffer in future elections. His advisers have stressed that it is vital to stop the small parties being given their head.

● **General strike:** The occupied territories suffered a general strike for the second consecutive day yesterday as Palestinians backed an order from Hamas, the Islamic resistance group, to mark the anniversary of the 1947 UN vote to partition Palestine.

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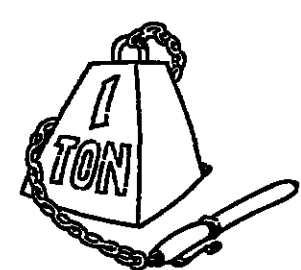
The News from the BBC £4.99.

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Cairo brought in from the cold

US ban on Arafat hastens Arab states towards unity

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

The proclamation of an independent Palestinian state and the ban on Mr Yasser Arafat's entry into the US have provided the catalyst for the most convincing show of Arab unity since before the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

In the wake of the declaration in Algiers on November 15, flags are already flying again over the Egyptian Embassy there and over the Algerian Embassy in Cairo. In addition, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, one of the most influential Arab leaders, has made his first visit to the Egyptian capital, where he lived in political exile in the early 1960s.

President Saddam's dramatic (and unannounced) arrival in Cairo on Monday may have caused panic among astonished Egyptian protocol officers, but to President Mubarak — alerted by telephone to dash to the airport VIP pavilion — it was a welcome gesture of support.

Less grandiose, but of greater potential for patching up the differences which have greatly weakened the Arab cause, was the decision by a senior Syrian official on Sunday to praise Egypt's decision to defy Jerusalem and announce formal recognition of the Palestinian state.

It was the first time in 10 years that any pro-Egyptian comment has been heard from Damascus, which until recently had used its official media to hurl an unending stream of abuse at President

Mubarak, most recently when he worked to forge a new moderate Arab axis comprising Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organization.

Syria's praise for Egypt's move was followed swiftly by reports from senior sources in Jordan that King Hussein was at last making progress in his efforts to heal the rift and preside over the reopening of diplomatic ties.

He left for Cairo via North Yemen yesterday to report progress in his intensive talks with Syrian officials, having himself recently mended fences with the radical regime of President Assad of Syria.

Many Western observers see behind these moves the firm hand of Moscow, which has played an important role in patching up Arab differences. Jordan's campaign

to re-establish relations between Damascus and Cairo (aided by parallel negotiations by Sheikh Zayed Sultan, President of the United Arab Emirates) are being matched by equally energetic attempts by Tunisia and North Yemen to bring about restoration of full diplomatic links between Egypt and Libya.

Apart from these two rejectionist countries, the only other Arab state not to have restored ties broken in protest over the Camp David agreements is Lebanon.

The recent flurry of diplomacy has not yet healed the deep personal rifts between President Mubarak on the one hand and President Assad and Colonel Gaddafi on the other, but there have been positive signs. Libya and Egypt agreed recently to end the abuse between their state-controlled

media, and the Libyan leader offered to send a special envoy to Cairo to try to overcome differences.

"Neither reconciliation is yet signed or sealed, but barring the accidents so common in this area, they are closer than they have been for a decade," one Western expert said. "The declaration of a Palestinian state has given them all a rallying cry, and Washington's ban has only speeded things up."

According to President Saddam, who appeared in a neat suit rather than in his familiar fatigues to emphasize his new civilian role after the end of fighting with Iran, the next step will be an Egyptian invitation to an Arab summit meeting, even though it remains expelled from the 21-nation League of Arab States.

Given the jealousies and rivalries in inter-Arab relations, press comments on Egypt's imminent return to the Arab League usually meet scepticism. But reports in Cairo now suggesting that within two years it could again be home to the headquarters of the league — and perhaps even of the yet-to-be-formed Palestinian government-in-exile — are no longer dismissed. ■ NEW YORK: Arab nations yesterday continued their efforts to reconvene the United Nations General Assembly in Europe to hear Mr Arafat, rejecting arguments that it will be better to wait until the Bush Administration takes office.

Letters, page 17

EEC pressure on UK

By Nicholas Beeston

Britain is expected to come under pressure from some of its European partners at the Rhodes summit meeting this week to accept a joint Middle East policy which would go further than before in supporting the Palestinian cause.

According to Foreign Office sources, France, Italy, Greece and Spain — which have signalled a readiness to recognize the newly-declared Palestinian state — have also been floating the idea of issuing a

joint statement which would make a "positive reference" to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 181.

The resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in 1947, sets out provisions for separate Arab and Jewish states and for a special international administration under UN auspices to govern Jerusalem. It was drafted before the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967, in which Israel captured large areas of Arab land.

UN lawyer challenges American veto

New York (AP) — The law cited by the US State Department to deny Mr Arafat an entry visa in fact specifically allows visits to the United Nations headquarters by foreign guests, according to the UN's most senior lawyer.

The State Department has barred him because the PLO commits acts of terrorism that he "knows of, condones and lends support to".

But Mr Carl-August Fleischhauer, the UN legal coun-

sel, has told the committee on relations with the host country that the case is based on an American law incorporated by Congress into the 1947 UN Headquarters Agreement when it accepted the treaty.

The UN does not recognize the law, which preserves America's right to "safeguard its own security and completely to control the entrance of aliens into any territory of the United States other than the headquarters district and

its immediate vicinity... and such areas as it is reasonably necessary to traverse in transit between the same and foreign countries."

Mr Fleischhauer said: "Mr Arafat's visa application is precisely to visit the headquarters district, and nothing else."

Mrs Patricia Byrne, the third-ranking ambassador at the UN mission, said that the US disagreed with Mr Fleischhauer's assessment,

but did not offer any detailed defence of the State Department's ban on Mr Arafat's visa application.

The Headquarters Agreement states that local, state and US authorities must not impede the travel of UN diplomats or representatives of non-governmental organizations recognized by the United Nations for the purpose of consultation. The PLO has non-voting observer status at the world body.

Close encounter on a space frontier



Jason Gardner and his sister, Jennifer (right), seeing the amusing side of not being allowed to touch their astronaut father, Guy, at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. He is under quarantine before tomorrow's scheduled launch of the space shuttle Atlantis, which he is to pilot for NASA on a classified mission for the United States Defence Department.

Kremlin appears ready for direct top-level talks with Afghan rebels

From Anatol Lieven, Islamabad

The first high-level talks between the Soviet Union and the Afghan Mujahidin are imminent, according to resistant sources in Peshawar and Islamabad.

Direct talks between the Mujahidin and Moscow in the absence of the "puppet" Kabul regime, have long been a Mujahidin demand, but the Soviet Government is refusing to confirm that the talks are to take place, and Western observers here are advising caution in assuming that they have in fact been agreed.

The talks, if they do take place, would represent a very considerable climbdown on the part of the Kremlin, and would be generally taken as a sign that Moscow had abandoned hope of the political survival of any part of the Kabul regime for whose preservation the Soviet Union has made many sacrifices in blood and money.

The talks would follow the first, albeit low-level official

contact between the two sides in Islamabad last Sunday to discuss prisoners of war.

An official of the seven-party Mujahidin Alliance in Peshawar told *The Times* that the talks had been planned to begin today in the Saudi Arabian City of Jeddah, but had been postponed because of "technical difficulties".

According to Mujahidin of-

ance. The other delegates are said to be Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, of the Afghan National Liberation Front, and Mr Abdul Qadir Teryah, of the Hezbe Islami, led by Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who is believed to have serious reservations about the suggested talks.

The reservations of two other leaders go even deeper.

● Analysts believe Afghanistan's end game has begun and that Moscow has nothing to gain by postponing its troop withdrawal ●

A spokesman for the Hezbe Islami party of Mr Manjiv Yousaf Khaliq told *The Times* that his leader had been telling Professor Rabbani that he could not negotiate on the basis of the Geneva Accords because the Mujahidin reject these. Mr Khaliq's views are shared by Professor Sayyaf, leader of the Itihad-e-Islami.

Most analysts here think that, even if the Soviet Union

has not agreed to talk to the Mujahidin immediately, it will soon have to. "The end game is here," one of them told *The Times*.

The final date for the Soviet military withdrawal is February 15, and it is difficult to see what Moscow could gain by breaking the Geneva Accord and staying longer.

The recent Soviet postponement of the next phase of its withdrawal is widely seen here as a desperate response to the possibility of an immediate rout of Kabul's forces in several areas.

To remain beyond February 15 would jeopardize Moscow's relations with the new United States Administration and, more importantly, its improving ones with China. It would also be bitterly unpopular with Soviet public opinion, a problem for Mr Gorbachev. Moreover, as most Soviet analysts now seem to realize, to postpone withdrawal would gain nothing in the long term.

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The Romantic Wicker Picnic Basket £199

Mitterrand under fire

Army rescues Paris commuters

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Several hundred French army lorries will come to the rescue of long-suffering commuters in and around Paris today, from bases as far away as the Riviera and West Germany.

It will be the first time in 17 years that the military has been called in to the capital to limit the effects of strikes and go-slows by public transport unions. The move coincides with increasing talk among government ministers about a hard disciplinary line against the union leaders — most of them from the pro-Communist CGT — responsible.

According to the Ministry of Defence, about 365 vehicles and 1,000 drivers are being supplied "at the request of the Prime Minister in order to

reduce the shortage of available transport".

Another military unit has been ordered to help to coordinate operations in the increasingly traffic-clogged streets of Paris and the surrounding suburbs.

As the army deployment was announced, President Mitterrand assured the public that the Government of M Michel Rocard, the Prime Minister, would "assume its responsibilities" in the face of the wave of public-sector disputes, involving postal staff, nurses and prison officers, that have enraged millions of people.

Speaking from the bridge of the huge aircraft carrier Jeanne d'Arc, anchored off

Brest, M Mitterrand observed that the law allowed the use of the military in such circumstances; he also emphasized that everything possible should be done to maintain a dialogue with the strikers.

In the past week or so his public utterances on affairs of state — and, for the first time, some aspects of his private life — have attracted increasingly stinging criticism.

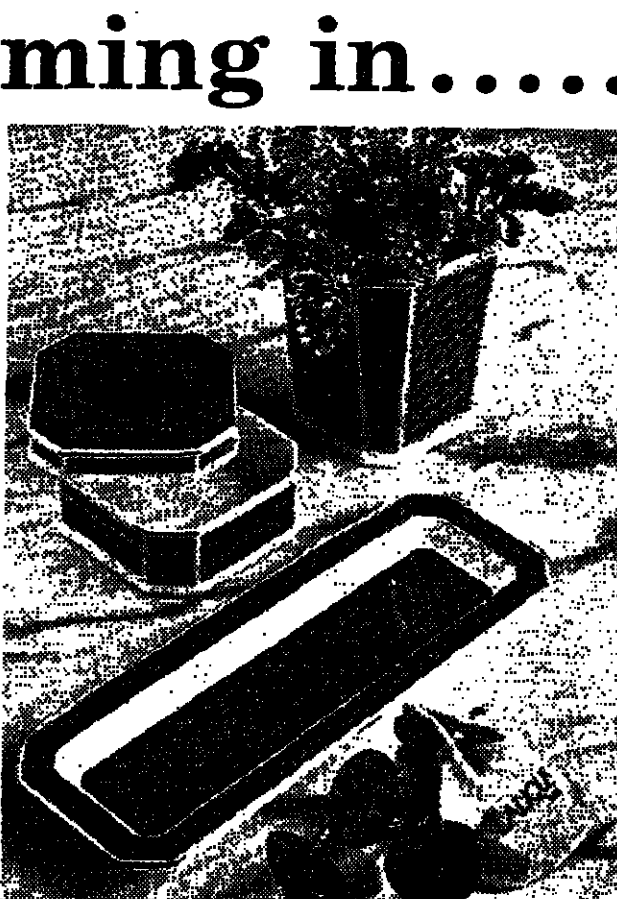
His performance on the Jeanne d'Arc, even against a carefully chosen backdrop of French naval might, will have done little to convince a growing body of detractors that he is far too detached about the problems of his fellow-citizens (given the distinctly regal Mitterrand touch these days,

some might even say his subjects).

Those who have spent hours struggling to and from work on grossly overcrowded trains and buses, or fuming in monstrous traffic jams, may not quite have been in the mood to appreciate his observation that the right to strike is an integral part of the Constitution, "which I am charged to watch over".

M Mitterrand still shows no sign of understanding why people are becoming increasingly worried about his own performance and that of M Rocard's Government. The answer seems to be that he is becoming seriously out of touch, marooned in the splendour of the Elysée Palace.

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Jean Muir China Boxes & Trays: Box £45, Pen Tray £39, Octagonal Vase £45, Lalique Spinning Tops £36 each

All in all, a room full of ideas, a pleasant ambience with a well-rounded selection, and most importantly space and time in which to make your choice.

I have been pleasantly surprised at just how affordable the gifts I have

seen and selected seem to be. Long established impressions are taking a tumble here. Of course, I can hit the high prices for amazement value, but most everybody can afford something from Fortnum's — and what a catch the labels add to any gift.

My host is forced to drag me past the Ground Floor, with its seductive smells and mouthwatering displays, time for that another day I am firmly told — That's another promise I make to myself.

We lightly touch the First Floor which is given over totally to the beautification of women — dresses, coats, suits, accessories, lingerie, perfume and cosmetics, all displayed in that same style and elegance I have come to expect. "Laid back" is an over-used phrase nowadays, and to me gives rise to the picture of a pseudo attitude cultivated for effect.

Fortnum's is confident and relaxed, 300 years' tradition and strict adherence to principles and standards can make one naturally assured.

The Second Floor concentrates, with one or two notable exceptions, on all things leather. The exceptions being a classy Gift Department and a very stylish Hairdressing

Department that has hit the headlines recently.

The Leather selection is at specialist level and probably one of the most comprehensive anywhere. Many lines are exclusive and I am attracted by one of the best range of evening bags and purses I have seen assembled in one place. As such an item is on my Gift List I look closer and find Rhinestone, chain metal, satin, velvet, and most difficult to come by nowadays "petit point".

An abundance of small leathers, wallets, purses, card cases and keyholders from which to select and a magnificent burgundy tapestry and leather desk set, totally exclusive to Fortnum & Mason, is laid out for inspection, each piece priced between £40.95 and £140.

Fine quality luggage and gifts abound, so much to see, but we must leave this floor for now, there is yet much to do.

On the Third Floor, where the Stationery Department shares space

with Men's Wear and Children's Wear, there has been created a special Christmas section. True to itself, the store has used colours of burgundy and green with those same headings followed through even into temporary fixtures.

At this time of the year the Stationery Department has a wider than usual range of gift items. A novelty line for fumble fists like myself is the automatic card shuffler, battery operated at only £12.50, it may be a little noisy but it is a lot more effective than a hand shuffle at my level of dexterity.

Here is a golf-ball cleaner £5.95 and a Filofax Book on Filofax itself at £8.95. To the right an enormous tableau of soft toys, supposedly for children, but from the attention they are receiving from passing adults I suspect that more than a few will end up sitting in bedrooms of little girls of quite advanced years! Prices range from £12 to £205.

And so to tea, my short tour ended, my hostess escorted me into the St. James's Restaurant for Darjeeling and a cream tea that holds enough calories to fuel a brigade of guards!

I consider I have earned my reward. Funny how self-persuasion for self-indulgence is not too difficult a task to accomplish — I have already promised myself another visit next week.

Christmas is a-coming in..... The Visit

From my earlier article, you will know I am standing within the hallowed portals of Fortnum & Mason waiting to be taken on a guided tour by a lady who had the misfortune to "take coffee" with me on a recent holiday. My intention today is to pay the cleaning bill she incurred as a result and obtain a better view of how a store like Fortnum & Mason functions during this busy period.

Exclusivity, I learn, in the real sense of the word, is a rare commodity! Fortnum's policy is to obtain exclusivity wherever possible, accepting merchandise with limited outlets as the alternative. The range being uniquely selected, you can be certain that you will not be overwhelmed with goods that are available just anywhere.

We decide to start at the Lower Ground Floor and work up to the Fourth Floor. This is an organised approach that has the bonus of finishing in the St. James's Restaurant where the cream teas are legendary and cost only £5.50, with piano serenade included.

The Lower Ground Floor is not large by department store standards, but it is an entity in design, decor, and merchandise integration. Chandeliers, beaded woodwork, oversee traditional displaying stylishly coordinated items in simple elegance. No tickets, no signs, no competing brand displays — just simple elegance; this I discover is the hallmark of presentation throughout the store, and what a comfort it is too!

Shopping list at the ready I start to find solutions to my gift problems.

From the Cook Shop — a wine thermometer in Mahogany presentation box at £13. A set of table mats with a humorous range of L. Thackeray golfing scenes as decoration £36, and A Fortnum's Special — a wicker basket that takes a bottle of Champagne, has two glasses strapped neatly to the inner lid sections and room to fit an al fresco feast of your own choosing, ideal for what the store euphemistically calls "the spontaneous celebration". Such spontaneity calls for a partner, a venue, and time to organise the feast, but they give the game away by naming it "The Romantic", £199. Such a scenario demands serious and extended usage!

In the China Department my attention is attracted to a presentation of China Boxes and Trays with bold backgrounds of Guards reds and blues, and

imaginative use of stripe or Paisley motifs as decoration. I see they are designed by Jean Muir, more widely recognised as an haute couture fashion designer. These items will set well on desk or in study.

Priced from £35 to £55 per piece they form a possible gift solution for a business executive, who if stressed could alternatively be given a Lalique crystal spinning top to twiddle during meetings. That's really showing stress or disinterest with style and panache — price £36.

A shining display of silver "bits and bobs" stands out classically against the mellow wood of the antique table top on which they are displayed, shell dishes, sugar dreggers, and a charming little silver-plated tea strainer with a wooden handle, prices ranging from £29.50 to £105.



Automatic Card Shuffler £12.50

Murdered ex-minister was victim of Iran power feud

By Huzhir Teimourian

A Tehran memorial service for Dr Kazem Sami, the liberal former Health Minister who was murdered in his surgery last Thursday, yesterday ironically turned into a show of support for Ayatollah Khomeini's designated successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, often described as a radical.

A large crowd of moderate Muslims, mainly supporting the positions of Mr Mehdi Bazargan, the first Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic in whose Cabinet Dr Sami had served, attended the service at the Ershad mosque.

Dr Sami, aged 53, was attacked with a machete by a man who posed as a patient and asked to be the last to be seen by him.

Mrs Sami, who was her husband's assistant, was held captive by the assailant after the attack. She said later that the attacker carried a Colt revolver and appeared to be a member of Hezbollah, the Muslim extremist group largely controlled by the Ministry of the Interior.

Dr Sami died on Saturday and, despite messages of condolence to his family from Ayatollah Montazeri and Mr Mir Hossein Mousavi, the Prime Minister, he was buried immediately at the insistence of the police. His friends said a

crowd of up to 100,000 attended his funeral.

Dr Sami's name had recently been mentioned in political circles in Tehran as a possible successor to Mr Mousavi. He had travelled to the shrine city of Qom the day before the attack to meet Ayatollah Montazeri.

An associate of his, Mr Ezzat Sahabi, had previously received approaches from Ayatollah Khomeini about forming a new government, but was turned down when he demanded free elections, among other reforms, and the release of all political prisoners.

While it may have been an unauthorized act, the assassination is being blamed by supporters of Ayatollah Montazeri and Mr Bazargan on the "ruling" faction around the parliamentary Speaker, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

It may more cautiously be assumed to be part of the struggle for the succession to Ayatollah Khomeini which is presently going through a particularly intense phase.

"Speaker Rafsanjani is going all out to decimate the camp of his arch-rival (Montazeri) while Khomeini is still alive and backing his actions," a recent arrival from Tehran said in London yesterday.

"The Islamic Republic is in crisis. It is itself realizing that in every area of public life it has proved an utter failure, and its morale is non-existent. Its factions are now falling out

among themselves to make sure they will be the wielders of power when Khomeini dies."

Sterling, the official rate of exchange of which is 124 Iranian rials, has soared to 2,000 rials on the black market.

Boundary lines between the factions shift overnight in Iran, but the latest count puts the former rivals, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani and President Khomeini in the same camp, while Ayatollah Montazeri, who has been chosen by an Assembly of Experts to succeed Ayatollah Khomeini as the country's supreme leader, is the principal figure of the next biggest faction.

Ayatollah Khomeini's son, Ahmad, is believed to wield influence in the Majlis (parliament) and to control the Ministry of the Interior, while Mr Mousavi, an economic radical and strenuous anti-Westerner, is being generally blamed for the Government's social and economic policies and is expected soon to leave the scene.

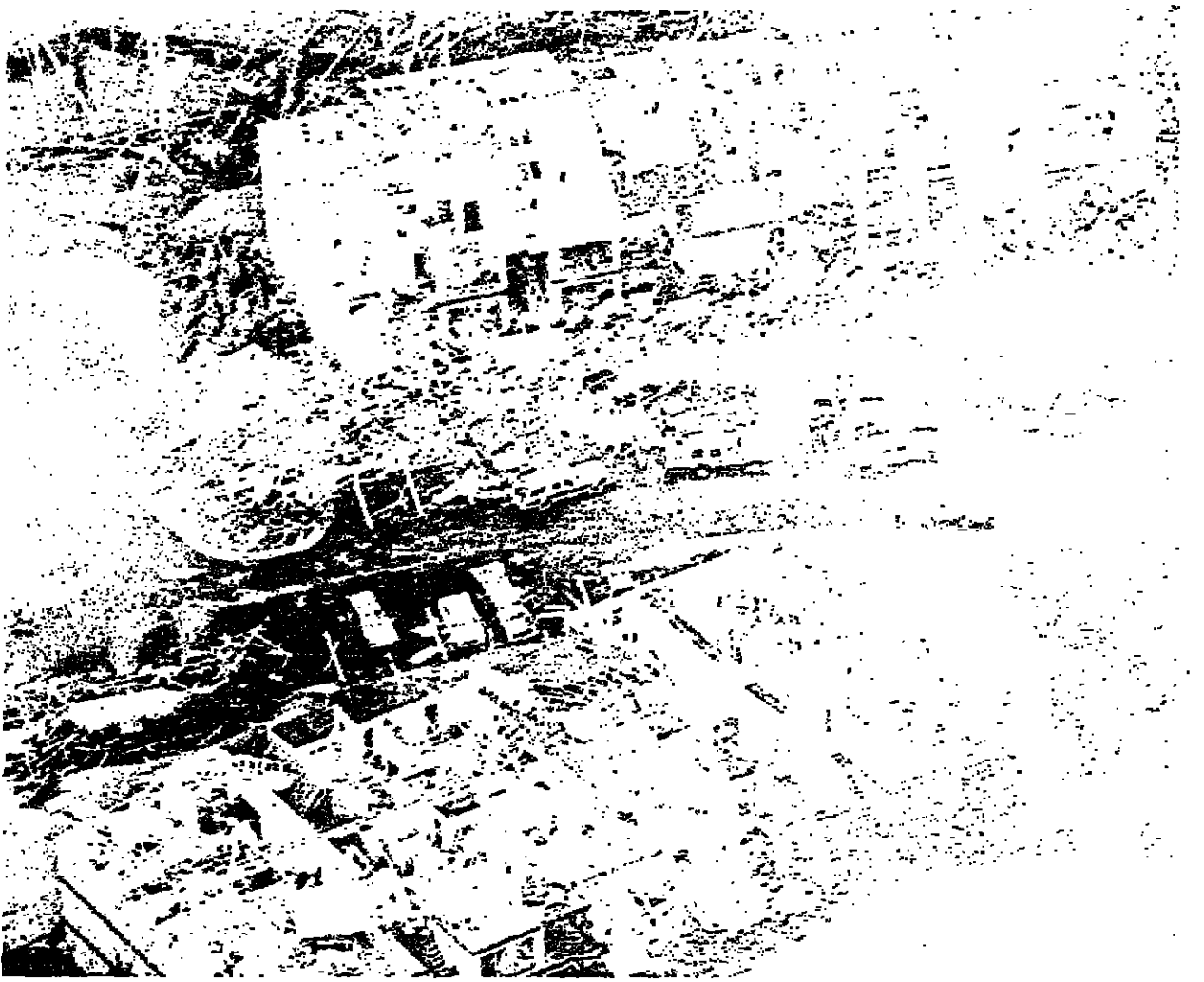
In looking for explanations and people to blame, however, no one seems to pay any attention to the fact that the population of Iran has grown over the past nine years of the Islamic regime from 56 million to 53 million.



Rivals for the succession: Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, left, and Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.



Trail of destruction in tornado's wake



The swathe of destruction in Raleigh, capital of North Carolina, after tornadoes killed four people and injured at least 143 others, destroying homes throughout the state. The Governor, Mr

Jim Martin, reported 15 tornadoes in seven counties. Mr Lisa Lanier, who lives in a Raleigh flat block hit by a tornado, said: "It was like a train, like you hear people say. It was like a jet coming

down to us." In Minnesota, storms dumped up to 10in of snow and drifts reached 5ft, stranding thousands of motorists overnight. More than 100 cars were involved in one major accident.

Elections in Venezuela

Pérez ahead in tough contest

From A Correspondent, Caracas

Venezuela, rich in oil and minerals, will hold its seventh consecutive free elections on Sunday, consolidating its reputation as a bastion of democracy in Latin America.

The polls come at the end of a year marking the 30th anniversary of democracy after General Marcos Pérez Jiménez's dictatorship was toppled on January 23, 1958.

Nearly 10 million out of the 18 million population are expected to go to the polls to elect a new President and new legislative bodies.

The presidential field is small, with only the front runner, former President Carlos Andrés Pérez of the Democratic Action party, and the leading opposition candidate, Señor Eduardo Fernández of the Social Christian party (Copei), having a chance of winning.

For the past three months Señor Pérez has topped opinion polls with 47 per cent of potential votes. Señor Fernández has trailed with 30 per cent, and a Socialist candidate, Señor Teodoro Petkoff, has been a distant third, with 7 per cent.

The congressional and municipal council polls are critical. Opinion polls give the ruling party almost 40 per cent of the votes, against 28 per cent for Copei and 32 per cent for a myriad of smaller parties. Señor Petkoff's Socialist Movement may secure more than 10 per cent of votes, according to opinion polls, leading observers to forecast a sizeable protest vote for the Socialists after an apparent failure by the Government to reform the electoral system.

Venezuelans have long demanded the elimination of the party slate selection process in congressional and council elections. Under the present system party leaders pick the runners, denying voters the possibility of electing the candidate they feel is best. The system has led to shady bargaining and suspect electoral contributions.

Other observers claim that the "dirty war" of words within and between the two leading parties is undermining

their campaigns, pushing many disgruntled supporters into a protest vote.

Meanwhile, the candidates of these two rival parties, which have alternated in power since 1958, continue to fight the most aggressive and exhausting electoral battle in the nation's history. The seven-month campaign has been rife with scandals, claims of betrayal and switches of political support.

Señor Fernández charges, among other things, that Señor Pérez secretly conceded territorial rights to neighbouring Colombia. Señor Pérez accuses his rival of running a campaign, albeit unknowingly, financed by drug barons.

Señor Pérez is bidding for an unprecedented second term of office. (Venezuelan heads of state must wait at least two five-year terms before seeking re-election.) Señor Fernández claims that a last-minute turnaround will seal his victory.

Señor Pérez won his party's nomination by defeating President Luisinchi's nominee. He also disqualified the President's private secretary, Señora Blanca Ibáñez, as a congressional candidate. But this move, aimed at forestalling a scandal over the widely-known intimate relationship between Señor Luisinchi and Señora Ibáñez, cost Señor Pérez the support of the President's followers.

Whoever wins the presidential election will face three years of delicate economic balancing to wait out the crisis being caused by the drop in the price of oil — the main export — until demand picks up. Oil prices are expected to rise in the early 1990s. This, coupled with increasing industrial diversification, should lead to an economic boom.

Before the boom, however, the new President will have to tackle a foreign debt of more than £16 billion, a negative trade balance, an internal fiscal deficit, a devaluation of the bolivar and soaring inflation. In short, Venezuela has a pressing need to attract more foreign investment and reduce its level of imports.

Nazi trial suicide

Jerusalem (AP) — Mr Dov Eitan, the Israeli lawyer of John Demjanjuk, the convicted Nazi war criminal, died yesterday after jumping from the 15th storey of an office block here in an apparent suicide, police said. Mr Eitan, aged 53, a former district court judge who joined the Demjanjuk defence team recently, was to have argued the appeal before a five-judge Israeli Supreme Court panel next week against his death sentence.

New minister

Bonn — Professor Ursula Maria Lehr, aged 58, director of the Institute of Geriatric Research at Heidelberg University, is the new West German Minister for Youth, Families, Women and Health.

Owner dies

Valletta — The Hon Mabel Strickland, owner of Malta's longest-established newspaper publishing group, has died at the age of 89.

General held

Venice (Reuters) — General Piero Piccio, a retired air force officer, has been arrested on suspicion of obstructing inquiries into whether Israeli agents sabotaged an Italian military plane in 1973.

Fighter down

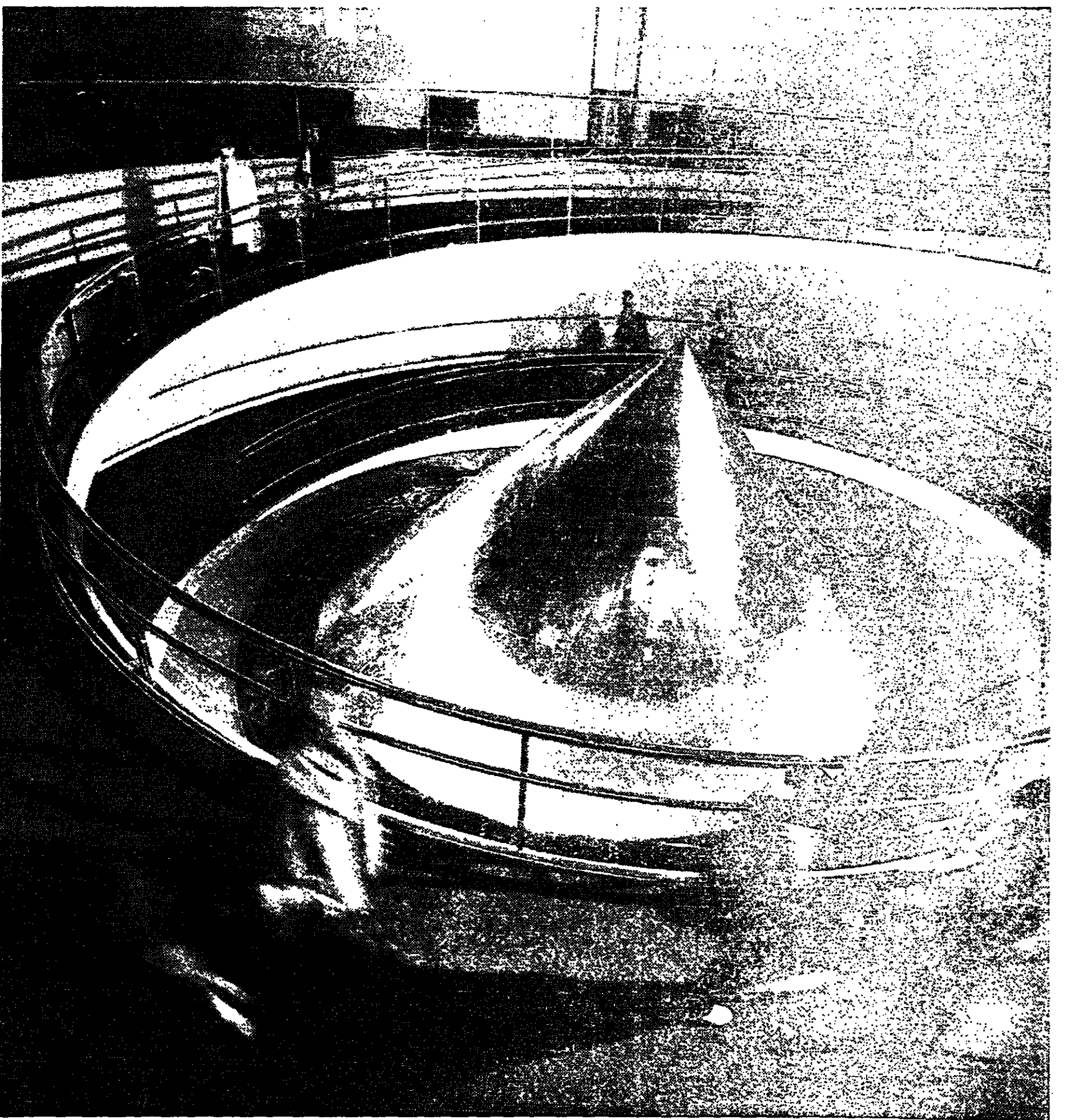
Ndjamena (Reuters) — A Libyan fighter flying over military installations in northern Chad was shot down and its two pilots captured, according to a Chad communiqué.

Staying on

Newton, Massachusetts (AP) — Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet human rights activist, has extended his first visit to the West and is resting at the home of his wife's children.

Free at last

Peking (Reuters) — A former political criminal who hid for 30 years in remote mountains in south-east China to escape persecution in Maoist political campaigns, has reappeared, according to the official *Legal Daily* newspaper.



ART EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE JET SET

This is the water sculpture at Gatwick's new North Terminal. Not only is it admired every day by thousands of passengers from all over the world, it has also caught the eye of the judges at this year's ABSA awards. With BAA recently picking up first prize for the best commission of new art in any medium. And while sculpture may be something of an unusual departure for Gatwick, it's just part of an overall commitment to improve the environment for everyone setting off in jets.

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PARLIAMENT

Sustained attack on Lawson

QUEEN'S SPEECH

The Chancellor of the Exchequer came in for a sustained attack on his handling of the economy from Mr Gordon Brown, shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, when he resumed the debate on the Queen's Speech.

He said that Mr Lawson had failed to use North Sea oil revenues for investment and had failed to invest research. He had wasted the assets realized from privatization. "No Chancellor has had better luck and worse judgement", he said.

"Higher interest rates, higher inflation and higher deficits are the direct results of mistakes made in the Treasury, mistakes for which the Chancellor has not yet had to pay but for which millions are already paying."

People no longer asked when would the policies of the Chancellor succeed. "They ask who will succeed the Chancellor?"

Mr Brown moved an Opposition amendment noting the Government's economic mismanagement, regretting the rise in interest rates and expressing concern at the lack of a strategy for long-term investment for building durable economic strength.

He said that at the beginning of November the Chancellor had told the House in his autumn statement that the balance of payments deficit for the 12 months of 1988 would be £13 billion. Last Friday, Mr Lawson had had to report that for the first 10 months that deficit was more than £12 billion, the worst trade deficit in British history.

At the beginning of November, Mr Lawson had also said that inflation would rise to 6.25 per cent by the end of the year. By November 18 the rate had already surpassed that to 6.4 per cent, the highest inflation rate in Europe with the sole exception of Greece.

In November, Mr Lawson had hoped that interest rates would remain at 12 per cent. Last Friday they went up to 13 per cent, making them the highest in Europe.

Interest rates in Britain were 2.5 per cent higher than in the United States, 5 per cent higher than in France, 7 per cent higher than in West Germany and 8.5 per cent higher than in Japan.

The CBI had said that these interest rates would damage industry's international competitiveness.

It was hardly surprising that with industrial costs, borrowing costs, up £1,300 million since June, the CBI should report pessimism among exporters and predict that investment would nearly halve next year and fall to 1.5 per cent in the year after that.

The policies designed further to reduce inflation had raised inflation from 4.1 per cent to more than 6 per cent since the last Queen's Speech when the Chancellor had said he would pursue policies designed further to reduce it.

Rising interest rates had pushed mortgage rates up and had fed through into the living costs of the people. "This from a



Mr Brown: As the Chancellor will find to his cost, Mrs Thatcher is the one neighbour in Britain with the power to evict

Chancellor who promised us in 1984 and then again in 1987 that his objective was zero inflation.

The Opposition's case against the Chancellor was not only the damage he had done to industry by high interest rates. Tax cuts in the spring followed by inflation and mortgage rises in the autumn meant that the people were paying many times over for his mistakes.

"Our case against the Chancellor is that he should have known all along that to engineer a short-term consumer boom, not underpinned by the strength of long-term prior and adequate investment, was bound to end in higher interest rates, higher exchange rates and other economies benefiting from increased demand in Britain."

Conservative backbenchers were asking whether there would be a hard landing for the economy or a soft landing. "They should ask why there should have to be a landing at all." The high interest rates,

higher inflation and higher deficit were not the result of international events beyond Britain's control, but the result of mistakes made in the Treasury.

What was the Prime Minister's policy and what was her attitude to her Chancellor? Her policy was to bring Professor Alan Walters back to Britain. Unsurprisingly, Professor Walters had said he would be taking an increasing role in the economy. It would mean a decreasing role for the Chancellor.

At a past Conservative Party conference Mr Lawson told an interviewer that he had always regarded it as one of the good things about staying in Number 11 Downing Street that there was no trouble with the neighbours. Any trouble certainly would not last long - not because relations between the neighbours were always good but because, at the will of the Prime Minister, they were always terminable.

As he would find to his cost, Mrs Thatcher was the one

neighbour in Britain with the power to evict (laughter).

This was the Chancellor who, earlier this year, had said that the economic problems would be solved, and even a few days ago in an interview with Sir Robin Day, of which the tape was played, had said that the economy under his leadership had been transformed, that the economic performance was the best in a long time, and that an economic miracle had been achieved.

How did he explain that miracle to the family on standard wage with an average mortgage facing increased mortgage payments, even though he said that interest rates rises were yet to bite?

The party responsible for the financial mismanagement that had led to this was the party that had said in 1979, when mortgages were lower, that they had risen steeply because of Government mismanagement.

"Why will the Government not accept responsibility for financial mismanagement?"

The Prime Minister had promised a fixed mortgage rate of 9.5 per cent, but that figure had been achieved in only two of the 114 months of her Government.

Did she recall her Tory manifesto promises in 1974 that the great advantage of the Conservative mortgage proposals was that at last young couples could budget for the future, knowing how much they would have to spend on their homes? Would she tell them how to budget for the future when they already had to spend 30 per cent of income on a mortgage?

Under the present Government, the many who had gained least were suffering most and those who had gained most were gaining even more.

"I can think of no comparable situation in British history when the gains of the few were so great at the expense of burdens to be placed on the shoulders of the vast majority."

The one thing the Government ought to do was the one thing it refused to do: the one thing by which it would be possible to restore the balance in the economy between North and South-east: to withdraw top-rate tax cuts.

He is the first Chancellor in the history of the United Kingdom who had had the benefit of North Sea Oil, to engineer a consumer boom without ensuring the country had the capacity to meet the demand. Consumption was growing quickly, but half as quickly as production. Imports were growing even more quickly.

With North Sea oil no govern-

ment had ever had so much scope for investment.

"The real economic miracle is that with the once-and-for-all investment opportunities the Chancellor has had he has still managed to bring us back to stop-go policies (Labour cheers)."

Even now, investment had started to tail off. Investment levels were worse than Belgium's. Britain invested only as much as Greece. Whatever figures the Chancellor would quote, the Government still invested less of its national income in the 1980s than it did in the 1960s and 1970s.

Investment in research, science and technology was down even when the Government admitted that the private sector was not doing its job in research in innovation, science and technology.

"This Government is so wedded to the market dogma that it will not bridge the gap by investing for the future. Two thirds of the firms in the South-east face skill shortages and 27 per cent (of firms) in the North-east (face) around the same."

Still shortages were so bad that engineers had to be recruited from Egypt and Hong Kong to build the Channel tunnel. British firms were being forced to consider sending their apprentices to Germany for training.

What was most worrying as a result of the investment gap over nine years was the waste of North Sea oil revenues and the waste of the privatization proceeds.

The country would approach 1992 from a situation where there had been a trade surplus to one where there was a trade deficit of £13 billion in the space of eight years.

The Chancellor should answer four questions which demanded a growing consensus within the country and even within parts of the Conservative Party.

Would he agree that he could not repeat the error of last year's Budget, that he must signal now that the economy could not sustain a tax-cutting Budget in the spring?

Would he agree that the burden of policies should not fall on those with low and middle incomes but on the top-rate taxpayers who never needed tax cuts in the first place?

Would he abandon his plans for large price rises in water and electricity industries and other public services for which he had a direct responsibility?

Would he agree that his next Budget should be all about a Budget for long-term investment and not one for short-term consumption, one for investment, with policies to enhance savings and ease credit?

Mr Lawson had claimed only one stated objective and had chosen to use only one instrument. He had had five years.

"Even with the unique advantages available to him, he has failed. All he has done is create tax opportunities tailor-made for people with vast fortunes in the City."

"To the City sooner or later the Chancellor will bow down. He has failed the country" (Loud Labour cheers).

Inflation 'the only real risk for economy'

QUEEN'S SPEECH

The slowing of the rate of growth of demand that was required at present was a simple and straightforward task compared to what had been achieved in the past nine and a half years. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said on the last day of the debate on the Queen's Speech.

The risk of inflation, he said, was the only real risk facing the economy.

He began by calling Mr Brown's speech trivial, and said: "I can answer his four questions with a single answer. There will be no change of policy" (Conservative cheers and Opposition laughter).

"There was not a hint of any positive policy proposal even after their recent deliberations in a Sogat convalescent home." Living standards in this country were higher than they had ever been before.

While Labour had been in government, public sector investment, to which they attached particular importance, was slashed by 12 per cent in real terms. Total investment during the whole of their period of office had risen by a princely 1.4 per cent.

Since 1979, total investment in this country had risen by 36 per cent in real terms (Conservative cheers).

The most revealing aspect of the long-winded Opposition amendment was that it did not mention inflation at all.

"This is despite the fact that the risk of a resurgence of inflation is the only real risk facing the economy - a risk far greater than the risk from the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments." It was precisely to avert this risk that he had sharply raised base rates.

The amendment revealed once again one of the major differences between the parties. "The Labour Party is at best indifferent to inflation and in practice it is the party of inflation, whereas for us the contrary is true. Inflation is at the very heart of our economic policy."

The key to economic success was confidence. For some years confidence in the economy among businessmen and consumers alike had been rising. But it had not been until the Conservatives' third general election victory that confidence had moved into over-drive, so much so that there had been a real danger that spending would rise too fast, generating inflationary pressures.

"It was for this reason that in August I decided to tighten monetary policy by raising interest rates by a full point. Then came the stock market crash and for the first time I then believed the risks of recession to be greater than the risks of inflation, and loosened monetary policy."

The outcome was that the economy came through the crash unimpaired and inflation was able to edge up again in 1988.

It was important to keep it in

perspective. Unlike other countries, Britain included mortgage interest rates in the retail price index (Opposition laughter and protest). This anomaly seriously obscured the underlying trend of inflation. Excluding mortgage interest payments, inflation was now almost stationary.

"Let there be no mistake about it. Inflation is a monetary phenomenon. It has to be cured by monetary policy. That means the vehicle to be used is interest rates and interest rates work."

High interest rates had had a marked effect on the housing market, the principle engine of consumer credit in Britain, and the effect would intensify in the new year.

Amid Labour laughter, Mr Lawson said that he had to warn Conservative MPs "that this will not make us popular."

Credit controls were not an alternative. Some 80 per cent of all household borrowing now was on mortgages.

Interest rates were a singularly well directed instrument of policy. It was on consumer spending, and not corporate spending, that they would have their principal effect.

Britain had a substantial budget surplus. He did not mean to say that the current account deficit was sustainable indefinitely, but it would in due course correct itself as personal savings rose again.

Meanwhile, it was steady financial resources were at record levels. Britain's net overseas assets were second only to those of Japan. "The world has confidence in us and sterling is strong. Moreover, I am determined that it shall stay strong for the indefinite future."

What mattered was economic performance and the fact was that the performance of the economy over the past five years had been outstanding. Unemployment continued to fall as it had done consistently ever since Mr Brown had predicted that Government policies could not reduce unemployment.

Over the past five years as a whole, investment in this country had grown very nearly twice as quickly as consumption, in sharp contrast to the performance of the previous Labour Government.

So much for the economic illiteracy of Mr Brown who had said that the country was simply experiencing a short-lived consumer boom. What in fact was happening was the longest ever economic expansion for decades.

After more than nine years of office, it was still this Government which was generating new ideas and setting the national agenda.

"We can do so above all, because we have the firm foundation of a strong economy and sound economic policy, which gives confidence to the City, to the people and the world."

Foreign control challenge

The Earl of Caithness, Minister of State for Environment, confirmed in the Lords that foreign companies may gain control of many of Britain's reservoirs through plans to privatize the water industry.

On the third day of the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech he was challenged by Lord Cleeve of Penryn, leader of the Labour peers, to say whether reservoirs could fall into foreign hands and if the security implications of such a transfer had been considered.

Lord Caithness said it would be a matter for the water companies when they were privatized to

decide what to do with land surplus to their requirements.

Lord Bruce of Donington, chief Opposition Treasury spokesman in the Lords, said that the imbalance between exports and imports in manufactured goods was worse than when the Lords select committee warned of the decline in manufacturing trade three years ago.

For the Democrats, Lord Evers said that the Government should consider other measures such as consumer credit controls and improved roads, instead of merely increasing interest rates to tackle rising inflation and the worsening trade deficit.

Kinnoek homes onslaught

The Prime Minister's attitude to new home buyers seemed to be "Tough luck you are on your own", Mr Neil Kinnoek, leader of the Opposition, said at question time.

Mrs Thatcher, responding to questions about rises in mortgage interest rates, said that home buyers, except those who had bought most recently, had seen the asset value of these houses increase enormously.

Mr Kinnoek asked what advice she could give to first-time home buyers having to find £40 a month extra outside London and £20 a month in London. He said that it was obvious that the only thing she had to say to home buyers was "Tough luck: you are on your own."

Mrs Thatcher: Nonsense. Home ownership has gone up enormously under this Government and will continue to go up. Those who have bought their houses have seen the asset value increase enormously.

Thatcher 'utterly dismayed' at Belgian decision

Mrs Thatcher made clear at question time her anger and dismay at the failure of the Belgian authorities to extradite Father Patrick Ryan to Britain where he is wanted in connection with terrorist activities.

She also made clear her frustration with the Irish authorities for not arresting him when he was returned to the Republic on Friday.

She told MPs: We are utterly dismayed by the Belgian authorities' decision to refuse extradition.

And, in reply to a further question, she said: Although the Government of the Republic of Ireland make fine sounding speeches and statements, they do not always seem to be backed up by appropriate deeds.

Mr Timothy Kirkhope (Leeds North East, C) opened the exchanges by asking: Does the Prime Minister not agree that the failure of the Belgian Government to extradite Patrick Ryan is utterly shameful (Conservative cheers)?

Does she not also agree that the apparently deliberate lethargy of the Irish Govern-

ment towards our requests for his extradition casts grave doubts on their commitment to the fight against terrorism?

Mrs Thatcher: I can well understand his sense of frustration. Our request for Mr Ryan's extradition from Belgium was prepared with the co-operation of the Belgian authorities to meet all the requirements of Belgian law.

We are utterly dismayed by the Belgian authorities' decision to refuse extradition.

Second, the Republic of Ire-

land. Fresh warrants for Mr Ryan's arrest were obtained and transmitted to Dublin straight away last Friday night together with all the additional documentation required by the Irish Attorney General.

Despite this, no action was taken by the Irish Attorney General. Failure to secure Ryan's arrest is a matter of very great concern to the Government.

It is as we governments adopting great declarations and commitments on fighting terror-

ism which they then lack the resolve to put into practice.

Mr Michael Bates (Hampshire East, C): Would Mrs Thatcher make the strongest possible representations to the Irish Government today about their abject surrender for short-term political gain, when one of the most wanted terrorists has been let free?

Does this not show that, despite fine words from the Irish Government when speaking about the Anglo-Irish agreement and so-called co-operation, there are many who will still believe that the Irish Republic is a safe haven for some terrorists seeking to escape the consequences of their actions?

Mrs Thatcher: The Irish Attorney General's failure to secure Ryan's arrest is a matter of grave concern to the Government.

I entirely agree that, although the Government of the Republic of Ireland make fine sounding speeches and statements, they do not always seem to be backed up by appropriate deeds.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of

the Democrats and party spokesman on Northern Ireland: While not wishing to subscribe to the overheated rhetoric we have heard from the Conservative side in the House, is the Prime Minister aware that her

concern over the handling of the Ryan affair will be very widely shared in many parts of this House and the country?

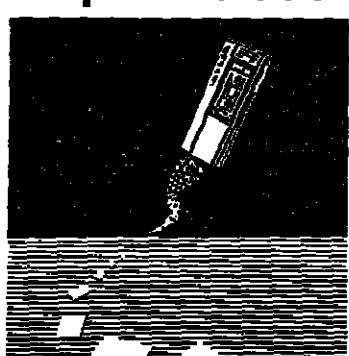
Does she agree with me that this matter has come at a particularly disturbing time in view of the review of the Anglo-Irish agreement which many in Britain who wish Ireland well, will wish to see done successfully?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. Fighting terrorism requires combined action on the part of all governments to try to bring those who are accused of grievous crimes before the proper courts for them to pronounce justice. I believe we shall receive support from all sides of the House on that.

Mr John Hume, leader of the SDLP, who was not called during the exchanges, said later that he would have thought the Speaker would have asked for another point of view to be expressed.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) told him that it was not possible for everyone who wanted to speak to be called at any one question time.

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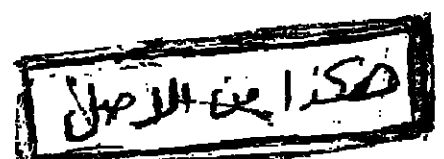
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PHILIPS

Ministers oppose EEC scheme

A Government motion opposing EEC plans to set up a transport infrastructure fund was carried in the Commons on Monday night by 218 votes to 144 - Government majority, 74.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said that the Government accepted the need to see whether gaps or bottlenecks existed in the transport structure but opposed the approach as a whole.

EEC spending should not be allowed to proliferate. Infrastructure schemes that were not eligible for existing funds should be provided at the expense of member states or privately funded.

Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) intervened to welcome the Government's opposition to these new EEC extravaganzas. But, he said, were not these

relevant. But in reality this country's transport system was one of the worst in Western Europe.

The regions needed investment to take advantage of the Channel tunnel. This type of EEC scheme would make money available for it.

Such schemes would be far better undertaken by national governments, but this Government wanted the worst of both worlds. It did not want to undertake such schemes itself, and it wanted to deny the EEC the right to provide the money.

It was the Government's view that freight transport should operate without subsidy. Why was it that only Britain took that view?

The Government was not prepared to consider the social costs of failing to invest in

transport, a matter that was particularly serious in relation to the Channel tunnel. Britain was the one out of step.

The Opposition would vote against the Government precisely because of its dog-in-the-manger attitude to this type of investment.

Mr James Hill (Southampton, Tes, C) said that the fund for infrastructure would be potentially as costly as the common agricultural policy.

In places such as Sicily and Greece, where the development of the infrastructure was far below that of Britain, the fund would be an open cheque. If the Government decided to support it, it must be prepared for a considerable addition to the budget at the whim of commissioners representing countries where the infrastructure was

poor.

'Beware of hackers' warning

A Labour MP warned the Government during defence questions that computer hackers might be able to break into sensitive defence computer systems. Mr Alistair Darling (Edinburgh Central, Lab) asked if there were any plans to strengthen the security of the computer systems to keep the hackers out.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, refused to discuss the matter on security grounds.

Later, he said: There is no question of the Government hiding behind secrecy. The fact is on our highly classified information we have no evidence of it being tampered with.

Disaster aid for Jamaica

The Ministry of Defence contribution to the Jamaica disaster relief operation had cost about £100,000, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said during Commons questions. The bill would be met by the Overseas Development Administration.

RAF safety assurance

The flying safety record of the Royal Air Force had improved consistently over the past 20 years and the public should not be unduly worried by the safety of low-flying RAF jets, Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said during questions.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Petroleum Resources (Relief) and Continental Shelf Bill, second reading. Debate on Commons procedure.

Lords (2.30): Debate on prisons and alternatives to custody.

SPECTRUM

The countryside's new crusader

The Duke of Westminster wants to fight rural poverty by encouraging business, writes Peter Davenport

Gerald, the sixth Duke of Westminster and reputedly the wealthiest man in Britain, is sitting behind a large desk at the estate office of Eaton Hall, the Grosvenor family seat near Chester, a gold Rolex watch glinting on his left wrist and, in his right hand, a china tea cup bearing the inscription "To a very important person".

On the wall opposite, amid an eclectic mix of family, military and sporting memorabilia, hangs a large map of the United Kingdom. Coloured pins mark the family lands and property interests that stretch from the far north of Scotland, Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales to 300 acres of some of the world's priciest real estate in Belgravia and central London, part of a £500 million empire spanning three continents.

The conversation is about rural poverty. At the request of the Prince of Wales, who has used his position as president of Business in the Community (BiC) to stimulate commerce to play its role in reviving inner cities, the duke, aged 37, is heading a new drive by the organization to take the boardroom into the economically deprived villages and redundant farmyards to create jobs, prosperity and a fresh sense of hope for communities whose traditional way of life is under threat.

He is, he admits, aware of the contradictions between his own position of privilege and great wealth and the problems of the people whose lives he hopes to change. He believes, however, that he was asked to lead the programme mainly because of what he has achieved on his estates, particularly Eaton. No one wanting a job in the three Victorian villages within his boundaries is out of work, he claims, thanks to a sensitive and forward-looking programme of job creation.

Converted cattle sheds house firms of architects and furniture designers, and design students develop their ideas commercially in an award-winning project started by his wife Natalia, the



The Duke of Westminster on his Eaton estate: "I will not be afraid of speaking out if I think something they are doing is wrong. I believe that it is all part and parcel of my role"

Duchess of Westminster, in a former smithy. A redundant village schoolhouse is home to a firm of consulting engineers, providing more than 20 jobs. A firm which began with two men in a converted barn producing window frames now has a turnover of several million pounds a year and a work-force of more than 30 and has had to move to larger premises in the city.

"Of course, people can question me and say what the hell do I know about rural poverty," he says. "Actually, in an important way, one has been there, done it and come through it. What we have put together here on this estate is not ideal, but we have gone a long way to creating a better community."

"I'm not saying that you can simply take the example of how we've tackled the issue of rural regeneration on these 11,000 acres

of Cheshire and apply it everywhere else. Each area, each county, has its own individual problems. But we can transfer the culture and the thinking behind it."

He sees his role in the revitalization of the countryside as similar to that of the Prince of Wales in inner cities. He intends to be as forthright in his opinions and just as unworried about ruffling feathers in the boardrooms of big business or the corridors of government.

"My role will be to persuade the corporate side that they do have a duty to be involved and I believe there is a well of interest waiting to be tapped. To a lesser extent it will be kicking backside, like the Prince of Wales does, although I probably won't be as good at it as he is."

The duke has a track record of

lengthy legal confrontations with the authorities, first on the issue of leasehold reform, which he fought to the European court, and second, a 15-year battle over whether his uncle, the fourth duke, died as a result of war wounds, thereby qualifying not to pay estate duties. The former he lost; the second he won.

"I will not be afraid of speaking out if I think something they are doing is wrong. I believe that it is all part and parcel of my role. I have never been afraid to do so and I have upset an awful lot of people in the process. I have a belief that the state often becomes extremely arrogant and there should be those who stand up and say, 'No, I don't think what you are doing is right'."

"Of course, the power of the state can be a very daunting thing to individuals and I believe if you have the ability to pay for it, and you have the ability to stick by

your convictions, you ought to see it through."

Behind the Prince's decision last summer to invite the duke to chair the team is a growing concern about the effect the changing face of agriculture — over-production, new technology and so on — is having on Britain's countryside. On Monday, the Government announced the latest changes, the biggest in 50 years, ending all grants aimed at increasing food production.

Scarcely, our countryside may be more attractive than the narrow horizons of inner cities, but the problems of unemployment in neglected and deprived communities are felt just as keenly by the inhabitants of farm cottages. About 8,000 jobs a year are being lost from agriculture's work-force of 450,000 and unemployment in rural areas such as North Yorkshire, Cornwall and Wales is

double the national average. Projections that a quarter less land will be needed for farm production by the year 2000 make the need for viable and environmentally sympathetic alternatives more urgent. Various rural development and enterprise agencies are already tackling a diverse problem. The knock-on effects have meant village shops, post offices and pubs closing and bus services being withdrawn. (BiC says 562 primary and 23 secondary schools in rural areas were closed between 1980 and 1987.) As the young unemployed leave for the towns to find work, the counter-exodus of wealthy urbanites who commute, retire or buy second homes, pushing prices out of the reach of indigenous villagers.

Balancing the growing pressure on the countryside is a problem the duke has tackled on his own

estates since inheriting the title in 1975.

On his 100,000 acres of Sutherland in the far north of Scotland he launched a transport company, running the buses and mail service, started a thriving 60-boat fishing fleet in the port of Kishorn, which provides work for several hundred local people, and then handed the projects back to the community to run.

On his 22,000 acres in north east Lancashire around the village of Abbey Wood, he has created new jobs, revived the village school, ensured the 60 cottages on the estate have gone to local families and resisted second-home owners.

Earlier this week I joined the duke on his estate at Eaton for a tour of his projects which, he firmly believes, hold valuable lessons for elsewhere. Fourteen small firms provide work for 81 people, the estate takes a further 35, and the Grosvenor garden centre 35. He says the estate provides work for more people than it did in Victorian times.

The duke was adamant that without change, albeit carefully and sensitively planned, many rural communities will die. "If programmes like BiC don't work, then the countryside has a very serious fate before it. I don't say that lightly. I don't want us to go the way, say, of northern Germany, where village life is very strong, but the farmsteads have disappeared and there is no one living up the farm lanes, or of America where they have made a real mess of the conservation side and you see prosperity leaving the countryside. To keep the essential characteristics of our countryside, we do need prosperity in it."

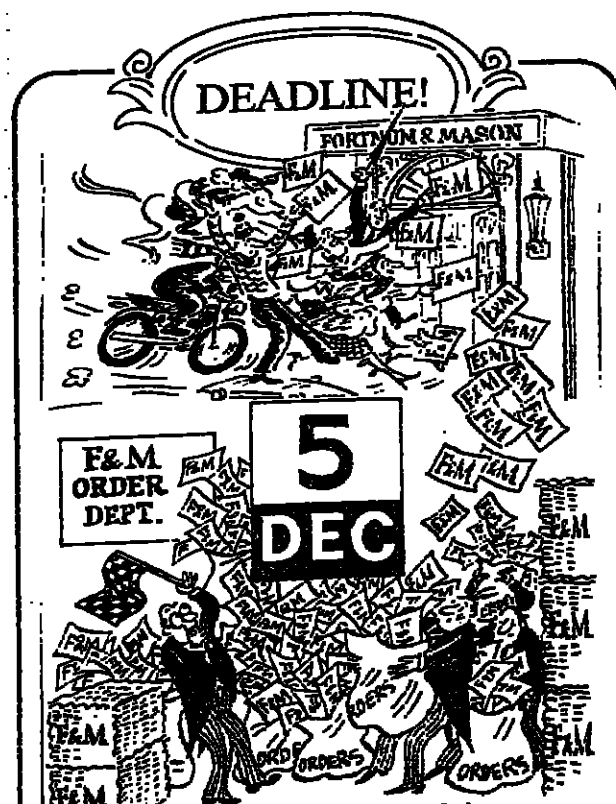
The first project for the duke's team will be to identify communities in Cumbria and Shropshire that need help, expertise and money. Projects will be developed in co-operation with local people.

Within five years he expects every county in England to have its own BiC rural team. As with inner cities, BiC will act as a catalyst between the public and private sectors, persuading businessmen that it is in their commercial interests to become involved.

If anything, the duke says, the problems of reviving the countryside are more difficult than those of inner cities. "It is a huge jigsaw and there is no single, easy answer," he says. "I would not pretend that there is. What we have to do is maintain the best of the past while introducing the best of the future. But if we don't do something, the countryside as we know it will disappear."

TOMORROW

Is Aids something less sensational than the Eighties plague? The Times marks International Aids Day with a situation report



The chequered flag is up and the finishing line is marked as Monday 5th December 1988.

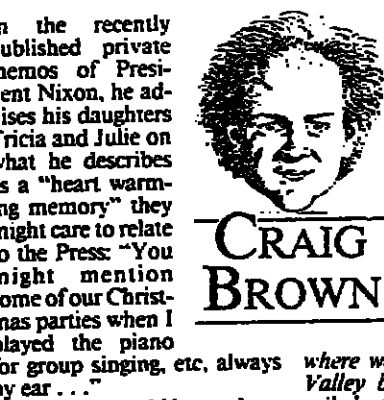
Under favourable circumstances, i.e. no hurricanes, snowstorms, industrial disputes, or running out of brown paper and string, we can state with no small measure of confidence that orders for the UK placed by this date will be delivered before Christmas. After the 5th prox, we shall be just as busy attending to the needs of personal shoppers and those who wish to collect from the store itself.

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Memos are made of this



In the recently published private memos of President Nixon, he advises his daughters Tricia and Julie on what he describes as a "heart warming memory" they might care to relate to the Press: "You might mention some of our Christmas parties when I played the piano for group singing, etc. always by ear."

No memo could better demonstrate the extraordinary difference between politicians and normal human beings. One of the few things that binds all normal people together is the excruciating embarrassment they feel when forced to undergo a family sing-song. It would be hard to imagine any greater horror this Christmas than answering the door bell to be greeted by Richard, Tricia and Julie Nixon, all anxious to wend their way through a gruelling selection of family favourites, "always by ear."

Nixon wrote this memo in 1972, but only now has it come to light. Had it been leaked at the time, he would have been forced to resign immediately, thus saving his nation the protracted agony of the later Watergate saga.

Mr John Selwyn Gummer and his "Church in Danger" group of peers and MPs today expressed "astonishment" that the Church of England should have become "waylaid from its traditional role by an undue obsession with the trendy, Sixties-style enthusiasm of a long-haired, bearded, unmarried man, in frequent trouble with the authorities, invariably decked out in sandals and a dusty hippie-type robe."

In a statement, the group condemned him as "part of the trendy, self-perpetuating liberal establishment, which is keen on teaching wishy-washy 'relevant' ideas such as 'Love' and 'Peace' than in maintaining traditional regard for the liturgy and structure of the church."

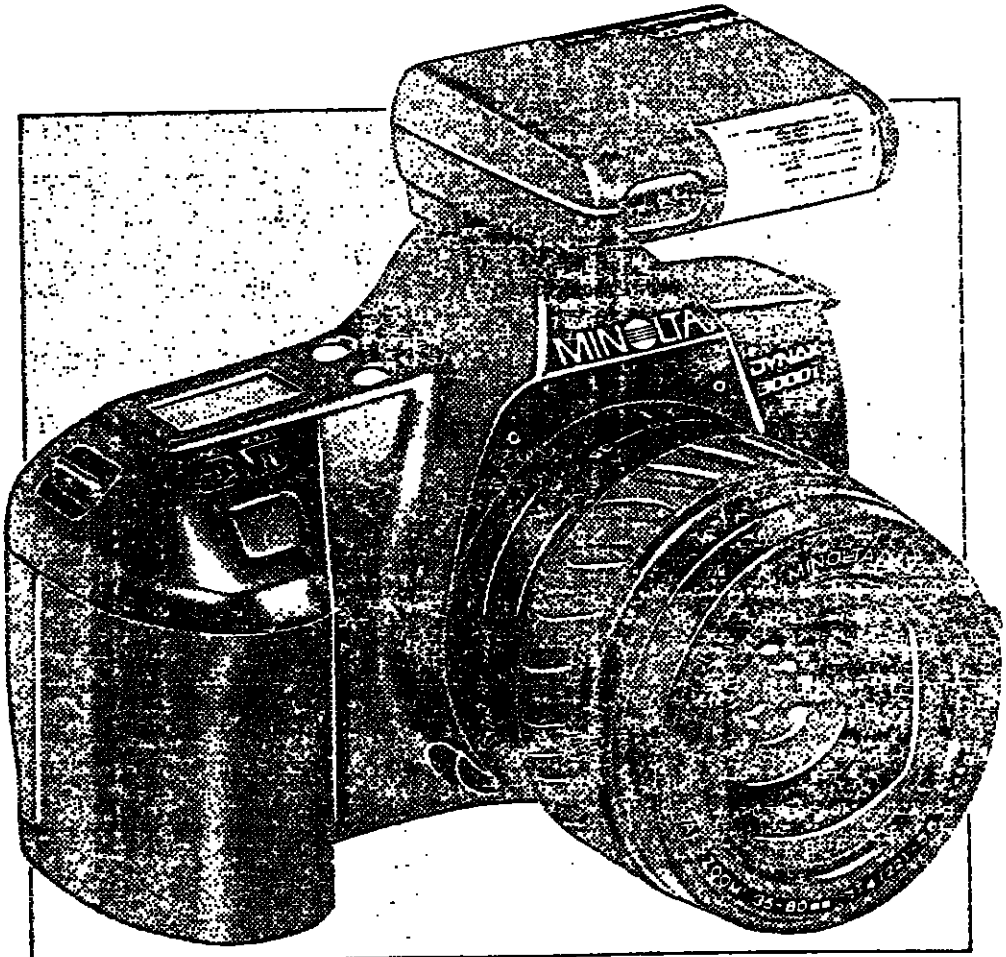
The group's manifesto claims that the church

is becoming influenced by the teachings of "an ill-educated, often shoeless, certainly un-English" man and is in danger of losing its national character. "He appears to exalt the wastrel and the ne'er-do-well, pool-pooling the wealth creators in our society. But where would the Lilies of the Valley be today if they had toiled not?"

It has been announced that HTV has bought the rights to a new book entitled Margaret Thatcher — The Woman Within. Press reports suggest that the search for an actress to play the Prime Minister "is expected to become the most intriguing since the hunt for a Scarlett O'Hara to star in *Gone With the Wind*."

It is most unfortunate that HTV did not hit upon this project five years ago, when the long-running television series *Crossroads* was still going strong. Denied at the time by critics as little more than a soap-opera, *Crossroads* — set in a family-run motel outside Birmingham — is now seen by many experts as a perfect recreation of life in Downing Street.

Responsible, vociferous, and, above all, concerned Meg Mortimer (played by Noel Gordon) would have made a perfect Margaret Thatcher, for Meg knew better than anyone the difficulty of meeting the demands of the fast-moving executive. Like Margaret, Meg liked to surround herself with dapper, go-getting men, among them her svelte Mr Fixit, David Hunter (Cecil Parkinson), her over-chatty but always-loyal chef, Bernard Booth (Bernard Ingham), her grittily outspoken waitress, Diane (Edwina Currie) and the sulky, passed-over tea-lady, Amy Turtle (Edward Heath). Meg's children (so often in scrapes) were uncanny replicas of Mark and Carol Thatcher. But the moment has passed, and now HTV must choose between Joan Collins or Kylie Minogue.



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WEDNESDAY PAGE



Modern-day Cinders: Isabelle Wojtyniak says "you need a certain amount of nerve" to sell tickets, but finds time to put her feet up before going off to the ball

You shall go to the ball

This is the month when London's professional ball-girls start training for the big match, not to mention the big catch (if he comes her way). Training, that is, not for a winter Wimbledon, but the London season of balls which kicks off with the Cinderella Ball at the Savoy on December 20 and dances through to the pricey Berkeley Square Ball in July.

But this new generation of ball-girls will not be languishing at the hairdressers in preparation for the night. Instead, the ball-girl is part of a hard-working team for the ball organizers, who range from charities to businesses. Her brief includes licking envelopes, coaxing companies into offering sumptuous tombola prizes, selling tickets and dropping in on other balls (complete with own ball-gown) with advertising brochures for her own event.

"Obviously, the work is seasonal: when they're not promoting balls, my girls have other jobs," says Oliver Baxter, organizer of the October Big Bang Ball, the Valentine Ball and others. "I employ several undergraduates from London University besides freelancers whose jobs can fit round my work. We don't necessarily go for the debby Caroline-and-Horsey-Henry type, although I do like my girls to be young and bright because that's the kind of person who buys our tickets. They must also be intelligent: my first question is never 'What does your father do?' but 'How many A levels have you got?'"

The London ball season is not all glitz; it is also very hard work. Jane Bidder reports

Pay for students is about £3-£4 an hour, but there are perks, the most important being the entrée to the ball itself. Fraternizing with the clients is not forbidden: Isabelle Wojtyniak, aged 26, is a translator who worked for Oliver on the Big Bang Ball after spotting one of his adverts in *The Times*. She met her Mr Right when he walked into the office, begging for spare tickets. "We'd actually sold out, but I managed to find him a cancellation," she says. "Then I bumped into him at the ball and we haven't looked back."

Amazing, really, that Isabelle had the energy to go to the ball at all. Like a modern-day Cinderella, she had been slaving away on the phone selling tickets to financial companies at £25 each, which is relatively cheap. "Yes, you do need a certain amount of nerve to do this, but I used to work in tele-sales, which was good experience," she says.

One big hindrance was the postal strike. Oliver and Isabelle persuaded Lloyd's of London to turn into a ticket office for the day, selling to colleagues and customers. Isabelle, who is paid a basic rate plus perks such as the use of office space, still had enough breath to run up her ball gown, created out of gold sequins and black tulle.

Loyalty is an essential attribute for a ball-girl. Isabelle, for example, refuses to take umbrage at the fact that her

appearance might have helped clinch the job. "It wouldn't be nice to have someone with chipped nail-polish or dirty jeans behind the desk. Anyway, I'm a member of British Mensa with an IQ of 152, so I like to think that my brain is important, too."

Kate Dignam, a piano teacher, is another of Oliver Baxter's ball-girls. Her job is to arrive on the hotel foyer steps, in full evening dress, just as another ball is ending, to dish out publicity for Oliver's events. "We always ask the hotel's permission beforehand, but I can still be stopped by the doorman for half-an-hour while the authorization is checked. That can be embarrassing, although I have managed to get security guards to hand out publicity leaflets for me."

"If I'm going to distribute leaflets at a ball in the country, I will often take a friend for company, especially as I may not finish until two in the morning. I don't bother to take anything to change into, but simply pop my Barbour over my ball-gown and drive home again."

Like most ball-girls, Kate, aged 27, rarely helps out on the night of one of her events.

Not all ball-girls are paid. Charities such as the NSPCC rely on volunteer committee members. Dee Carpenter, aged 40, is a mother of two from Barnes whose role is to sell advertising space in the ball's brochure and tickets

(£45 each) to friends and contacts. "As a PR for the fashion and cosmetic industry, I'm always talking to people, so I mention the event to everyone," she says. "Contacts and personality definitely help - it's no good being a shrinking violet."

The NSPCC also recruits ball-boys. Nicholas Springman, aged 28, is an interior designer who became involved after a friend persuaded him to make the table decorations for last year's ball. He is one of 10 men on a committee of 42. "My friends ribbed me initially, but now they are fairly impressed I'm doing this for charity."

Not all ball-girls have professional jobs. Sally Ann Whertherly, aged 39, a divorcee with two children at boarding school, has just been appointed chairman of the Red Cross Ball for November 1989, having served her time as an "ordinary" committee member for this year's ball together with Roddy Jewell, Richard Branson, et al. "Roddy was marvelous: he got lots of gardening vouchers for prizes," she says.

For this year's ball (tickets £75 each), Sally Ann helped to plan the menu, elicit advertising for the ball brochure (an outside back cover costs £1,500, plus VAT) and caddy prizes ranging from lunch for two in a French chateau (which she won) to a P & O cruise.

"Generally, out of a committee of 35, about 22 do something while 13 really go full-out," she says. "It's human nature, really: some like to have their name in print or else find they don't have the time because of a domestic crisis."

Planting the seeds of learning early

Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education, is likely to step over a toy telephone on the way to answer her real one. That's because her parliamentary private secretary also happens to be her daughter, who works with the minister's two-year-old grandson toddling at her feet.

"I practise what I preach," Rumbold says briskly. "I've always employed women as home helps, too, and they've been able to bring their children along with them."

More employers, she believes, should be so enlightened. There would then be less need for TV-am's campaign, launched this week, for better nursery provision for the under-fives.

The project is the brainchild of the television station's education reporter, Elaine Lipworth, who was spalled by the BBC report listing Britain at the bottom of the nursery slope. "Sixteen years ago Margaret Thatcher pledged to make nursery education available to 90 per cent of the under-fives in Britain," she points out. "Yet we have far fewer nurseries now than we did in 1945, and only some 22 per cent of children are catered for."

Lipworth visited a nursery school in Italy where times are taught opera, foreign languages and sophisticated architectural principles, as well as the rudiments of reading and writing. Facilities are those associated with the most expensive private nurseries in Britain - but admission is free.

The presenter says she feels "strongly committed to getting the law changed before I have children of my own. At the moment there is no consistent policy. In places such as Wiltshire and Gloucestershire there is no state nursery system at all, whereas in Hounslow 68 per cent of children have nursery school places. We're having Angela Rumbold in the studio on Friday to tell us why."

Rumbold, who obtained a second degree while being a full-time mother to three children, says firmly that "the market establishes its own needs".

"Women in this country

Why is TV-am campaigning for nursery education?

have a good deal of individuality," she claims. "They like to be able to make their own choices for their children."

But surely being able to make their own choices means having the choice of state nurseries and nursery education? "A lot of British women have reservations about putting their children in a day nursery," Rumbold maintains, "and the majority of state nurseries in this country are no more than

literary and have more understanding."

But Lipworth sees Baker's statement as a mandate for better nursery education, and Rumbold concedes that trained teachers can stimulate a child better than tired parents.

As employers look towards women to swell a dwindling workforce, Rumbold feels there must inevitably be an improvement in state provision. "I am pleased to see the growing movement towards workplace crèches," she says, "but I do feel the Department of Education and Science should get more involved. With the national curriculum and the European market around the corner, nursery education is more important than ever. Language development is a classic case: one of the reasons we have such difficulty with languages in this country is that we're not taught them until the age of 10, whereas on the continent toddlers are bi-lingual. But we have to look at who pays."

Perhaps big companies such as IBM or ICI could be encouraged to sponsor language laboratories for local nurseries? "It might come to that," Rumbold agrees. "But first we must make caring for children be seen as a worthwhile career. Schools still make it difficult for mothers who want to teach part-time. It's a short-sighted policy which a shortage in the teaching profession should remedy."

Dr David Lewis, a psychologist who has written several books on child development, will be in the TV-am studio today to discuss the issue. "It's not just a question of throwing money at the problem, there's a lot of training to do," he advises. "The first five years of life are crucial."

Alexandra King



And baby makes three: Angela Rumbold at work

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Alexandra King

The Christmas Shopping Day at Simpson's of Piccadilly in aid of the NSPCC is being held tomorrow (December 1) not today as stated on yesterday's fashion page.

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Past present

A family tree makes a novel present under the Christmas decorations. Achievements Ltd, a research firm supporting the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, will set trained genealogists to research the tree in question, leaving no stone unturned. A family tree gift voucher costs £250, and it should be ready, the company claims, in time for Christmas 1989 - cleverly providing two years' Christmas presents in one. Other "ancestral services" include coats of arms, tracing inheritance claims and the ancestry of adopted children. Further details from Achievements Ltd, The Heraldry Centre, Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA.

Silk surprise

Edwina Currie has got short shrift again from pensioners for recommending silk thermal longjohns. But they are effective, and a reasonably-priced range comes from an unexpected quarter: a company called Survival Aids, based in the wilds of Cumbria, with a branch at Euston Station, London, and a mail order service. Survival Aids' marketing manager, Anthea Bentley, says so many of her company's products were being ordered by women that ladies' versions of the popular pure silk thermals have been designed. The fly-free longjohns come in pale blue or ivory, in 100 per cent silk, and cost £19.95. There is a round necked, long-sleeved matching T-shirt for the same price, with an extra long body to protect the lower back. The two pieces look good enough to lounge about in even when survival is not an issue, particularly when accessorized by a navy blue silk cowl (£7.50) which can be pulled up over the head as a balacava. A

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Quote me...



"I'm all in favour of men having the same rights as women in divorce, but that isn't the point. The point is I wasn't able to pay." Elizabeth Browne, whose ex-husband, Tory MP John Browne, has just won a £175,000 divorce settlement plus £95,000 costs from her

free mail order catalogue is available from Survival Aids, Mortland, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3AZ (Freephone 0800 262752).

Prints charming

Original prints by leading contemporary artists and old masters will be on sale this weekend at the London Original Print Fair at the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly, London W1, from Friday until Monday. To be opened by Peter Blake tomorrow evening, the fair boasts the wares of nearly 30 leading print dealers from the UK, France, Norway and the United States - frustrated by the postponement of the New York Print Fair until February. The fair will be open to buyers and browsers from 11am until 6pm; admission is £4 including catalogue. Prices will range from about £50 to over £100,000.

Victoria McKee

Simpson

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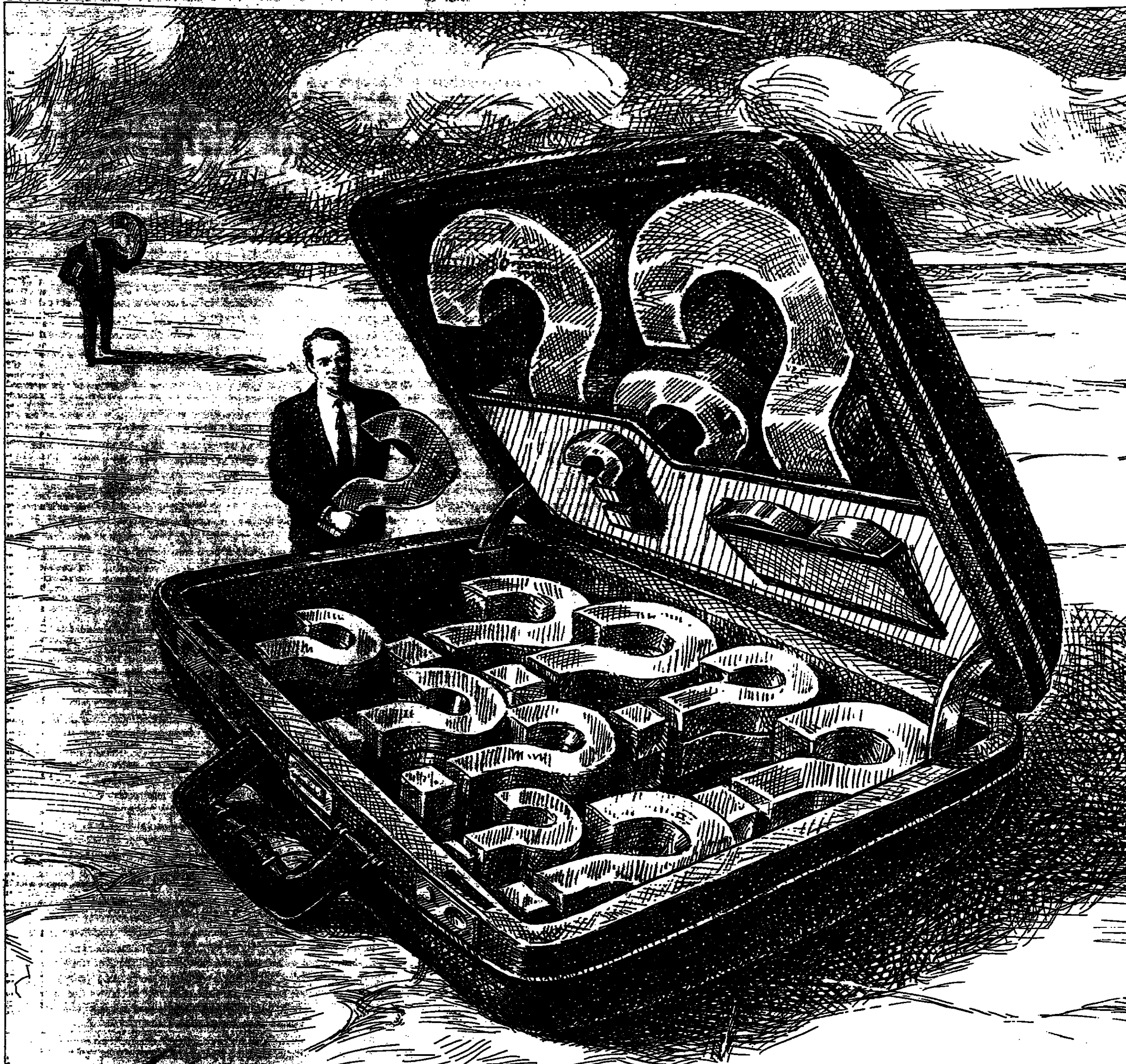
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Justice and the Guildford Four

TRIAL

The whole of the evidence against the four accused consists of confessions, obtained by the police within a few days of the arrests, in which each implicated himself and betrayed the others. The accused said that they were obtained by violence. The jury did not believe that.

Nevertheless, the verdict leaves a question mark. No doubt the prisoners were roughly treated. But is it likely that the fanatical murderers whom the IRA sends out would succumb so quickly to blows and harsh words?

The Guildford Four were by their own account a piable lot. Certainly Paul Hill (left) and probably Gerard Conlon (second left) were IRA members, but not among the elite. Conlon was a petty criminal who thrived on drink, gambling and girls, getting the money he needed by stealing everything that he could sell.

Patrick Armstrong came to England in 1972, he says, to escape the troubles. It was then that he progressed from drink and betting shops to drugs. In 1974 he was unemployed and living in a squat in Kilburn with his girlfriend, Carole Richardson, who was English. She had been on drugs since she was 11. There is no indication that any of them were, as in the case of its regular units, financed by the IRA.

They were all of the sort that lives from hand to mouth, that does not look beyond the hour and that tells a lie as easily as the truth. Their answers under interrogation were contradictory and confused.

An English court is at its best when it is dealing with the "reasonable man". Passengers on the Clapham omnibus do not willingly confess to crimes which they have not committed. So what stronger evidence can there be than a voluntary confession?

The criminal courts are only now just beginning to relax their grip on the touchstone of the Clapham Man and to allow expert evidence about the factors which may without brutality produce false confessions. A letter about Armstrong from a person whom the judge described as "a distinguished consultant psychiatrist of a London hospital" was given to the judge, but only after conviction. It described Armstrong as a timid man, frightened in particular of physical violence and of authoritarian figures.

It is the task of the police first to find suspects and then to find the evidence that will convict them. When they arrested the four they had been searching for seven weeks during which the murders multiplied, the most shocking being at Birmingham on November 21, 1974, when 21 persons were killed and 150 injured. The police were under the pressure of events to get results and, when they arrested the Guildford Four, they still had nothing.

The accused also were under pressure — the pressures of fear, confinement and helplessness — to give what was wanted. What happens when the pressures meet no one really knows. The police have made pretty secure the secrecy of the interrogation. They do not choose times convenient to lawyers nor when their suspects are likely to be at their best.

After the interrogations, the police charged eight persons with the Guildford murders. Four confessed and were convicted. The cases against the other four were abandoned.

Is this trial by ordeal? Is the court trial only a ceremonial? This is what we used to say of state trials in the dictatorships when prisoners were led into court to confess their sins.

That would not be a fair description of the English procedure. An issue is left for the jury to try. But it is not the real issue. Whatever the theory, the prosecution, where there are confessions, does not have to start by removing the presumption of innocence. The prisoners go into the dock with the halters of their confessions about their necks and unless they can slip free of them they are doomed. The trial is about slipping free.

It was a fair and correct trial according to English ideas. Other jurisdictions may think differently. Some think it unsafe to act on a confession that is not corroborated. Others draw a line between "helping the police with their inquiries", which is the duty of the good citizen, and self-



incrimination. Before the "help" can be turned into evidence, it must be given to a judicial authority.

Any ponderings about what other nations might think would have been put aside when an event occurred that seemed to make them irrelevant. While the Four were awaiting the hearing of their appeal, an IRA gang with whom the Four had no known connection claimed what they regarded as the credit for the Guildford killings.

APPEAL

The gang — or active service unit as it would prefer to be called — which on January 24, 1977, formally claimed to have planted the bombs in Guildford — began its campaign in England with the Guildford explosions and followed them with about twenty other crimes until it was caught and defeated at the Balcombe Street siege in 1975.

The case for the defence on the new evidence is that the bomb in the Horse and Groom was planted by Brendan Dowd, a young man who came from a committed Sinn Féin family. He arrived in England in August 1974 with Joseph O'Connell, a bomb-maker in the IRA. They established a "safe house" in Fulham.

The task of the unit was to bomb pubs frequented by the military. Late in February they reconnoitred Guildford and decided on their targets there. On October 4 they made the bombs in their safe house. On the 5th they drove to Guildford with another man and two women unnamed. Dowd and one of the women planted the bomb in the Horse and Groom. O'Connell and the other man and woman planted another in the Seven Stars.

Not long after this initial achievement they were joined by Eddie Butler and Harry Duggan. All four were on the expedition which bombed the King's Arms at Woolwich on November 7. O'Connell was the one who threw the bomb. This was the second crime. Only Hill and Armstrong "confessed" to it.

On July 10, 1975, Dowd surrendered after an incident in Liverpool. On December 13 O'Connell and Butler were among those captured in the Balcombe Street siege. In the interrogations which followed they hinted that the wrong people had been sentenced for the Guildford murders.

These *pourparlers* began what the Court of Appeal was to call "a cunning and skilful attempt to deceive the court". They were right of course to treat it as suspect. The chiefs had been caught red-handed and had no hope; they had nothing to lose by looking after themselves.

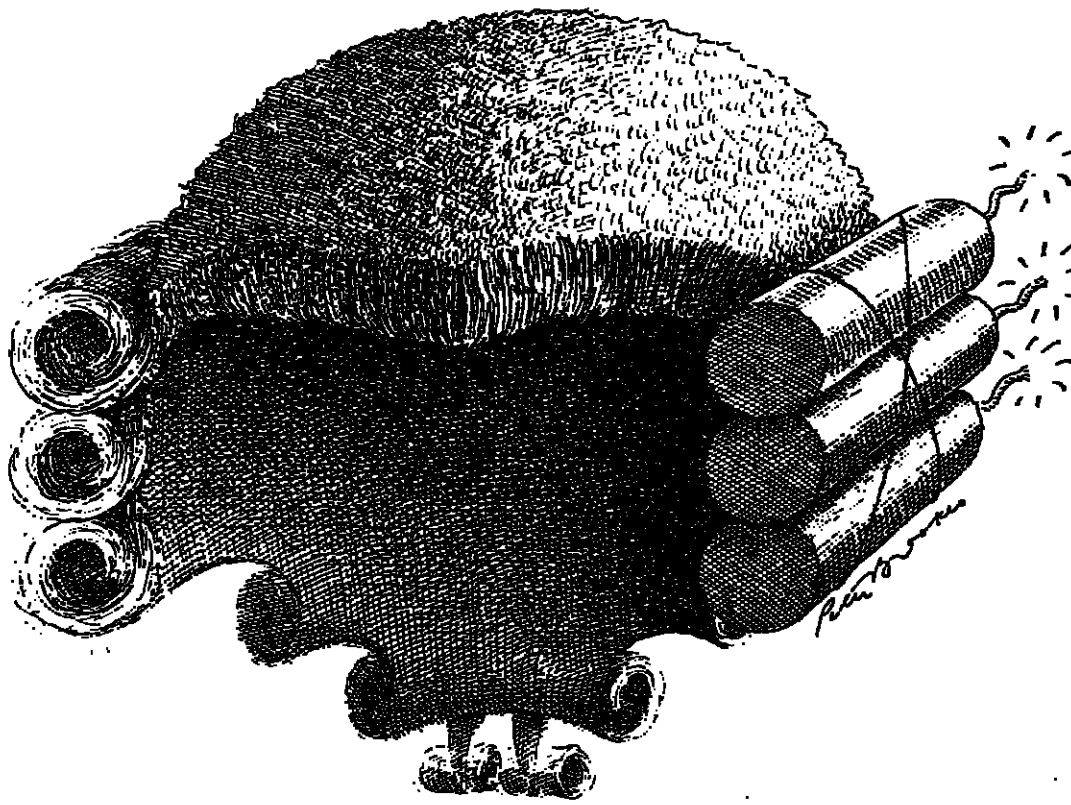
It looked at first as if the *pourparlers* would lead to nothing. All they did indeed was to start some loose talk which in May 1976 reached the ears of Alastair Logan. He was and is a Guildford solicitor working on his own. Offered the case by the Legal Aid Panel he refused it as too heavy. When no one else would take it, he did. He is one of those pilgrims of the law who, when Justice beckons, pick up the staff and the scrip and walk. Legal aid has long since dried up. He is walking still.

He is also a prudent man. He took with him to the interviews he obtained with O'Connell and the others a retired police superintendent to conduct them and a stenographer to record them. The Balcombe Street men were put on trial on January 24, 1977, and condemned. They refused to plead, adding to the customary denial of the jurisdiction the reason that the indictment did not include two charges on which they were guilty and on which innocent people had been convicted.

In October of the same year the appeal of the Guildford Four was heard. The four men who had done the bombings at Guildford and Woolwich went into the

Two Lords of Appeal argue that the convictions of four alleged IRA bombers 14 years ago rest upon a fundamental error of law which threatens Britain's system of trial by jury

by Lord Devlin and Lord Scarman



witness box. They were all fanatics for whom the truth was a servant of the cause. But their testimony did not have to stand alone. Their command of details which they could have known only by participation compelled a reluctant measure of belief.

So the court accepted that O'Connell's story (he said that he had planted the bomb at the Seven Stars) might be true and that Dowd (who said that it was he who planted the bomb at the Horse and Groom) might also have taken part. But they refused to believe that the Guildford Four were not involved.

They did not discuss the probability of involvement. There was no circumstantial evidence from which the presence of the Four could be inferred, nothing indeed to connect any of them in any way with the Balcombe Street gang. Neither operation needed more than the five members of the gang itself. The other four were certainly not key operators; after their arrests operations continued as before. Is it probable that this professional gang took along with them four extras, three identifiably Irish, to hang about and maybe leave clues behind them?

There is another facet of the judgment to be considered. What did it do to the proof of guilt? The court described the confessions as "the partially true intermingled with the deliberately false". They did not seem to appreciate that this damaging criticism was being made of the only evidence of guilt that the Crown had produced.

The court did not re-examine the confessions to determine how far their reliability was affected by such parts of the new evidence as had been accepted. The only evidence now left against Hill and Armstrong that they were present at the scene of the crimes was their confessions that they had actually committed them.

These are criticisms that could have been made on appeal. But the Court of Appeal had spent itself on finding the facts. It can be very difficult, if not impossible in a complicated case, for the advocate to frame an effective argument on the facts when he does not know what evidence is going to be believed. This is the importance of a court of review. The amalgamation of trial and appeal was the first and not the least serious of the deprivations that flowed from the decision not to order a new trial.

Another deprivation was the loss of the defendant's right to have the case against him presented as a whole. The split made the process unreal from the start. If the verdict was right, the new evidence must be false; if it was wrong, there was no need for more evidence. There was no way in which justice could be done except by beginning again.

Beginning again was what the statute said was to be done. The fresh evidence would be received only if it was "likely to be credible". Only a jury had the power to say whether it was actually false or true. Why were the judges usurping that power?

had no power to order a re-trial. So all that could be done, if the new evidence was credible and substantial, i.e., might have affected the result, was to quash the verdict. Many accused who were more than probably guilty escaped in this way. This was the situation until a statute of 1966 permitted a court which had quashed a verdict in this way to order a re-trial.

In *DPP v. Stafford*, which came before the Lords in 1974, the House had in front of it what was virtually a dossier, i.e. a written record. The prosecution was based entirely on circumstantial evidence. Proof of guilt was to be inferred from data observed by creditworthy witnesses. After the verdict more witnesses were found with more data; their evidence was recorded in writing.

Whether the new evidence was weighty enough to destroy the verdict of guilty was doubtful. If it was not, the case would be over. If it was, there must be a new trial in which all the old witnesses would repeat orally their recorded evidence; this to be followed by the new witnesses with their evidence; then maybe a second appeal.

An unconscious judge might have been tempted to give the facts a nudge to the more convenient side of the margin. The five *Law Lords* did not do that. *Fiat justitia ruat cælum*. They had conceived a novel way of keeping the heavens in their place.

They took a new look at section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 which contains the directions for allowing and dismissing appeals. They found in it an explosive substance, capable of blowing a large hole in trial by jury, which had for six years lain undetected by the lower courts. This section provided that the Court of Appeal should "allow an appeal against conviction if they think that the verdict of the jury should be set aside on the ground that under all the circumstances of the case it is unsafe or unsatisfactory."

The House said that it was what

ERROR OF LAW

What should the legal system do with evidence that turns up after the trial is over? The sleep of the final verdict is disturbed. For centuries English law stood robustly on finality: no appeal from the verdict and no indulgence for a party who did not bring all his evidence with him. The Act of 1907, which created the Court of Criminal Appeal, permitted also fresh evidence, but did not say what was to be done with it. In 1908 the new Court decided that it

LANDMARKS IN A CONTROVERSY THAT REFUSES TO DIE

OCTOBER 5, 1974. Six killed, 35 injured by IRA bomb at Horse and Groom pub, Guildford. Second explosion at Seven Stars, which has been evacuated.

DECEMBER, 1974. Guildford Four confessed; charged with murder. SEPTEMBER 16, 1975. They plead not guilty at the Old Bailey and retract their confessions.

OCTOBER 22, 1975. All four jailed for life. They appeal. DECEMBER 1975. Balcombe Street siege. Four arrested.

JANUARY 24, 1977. Balcombe Street trial opens. Three claim "credit" for Guildford crimes. OCTOBER 28, 1977. Appeal Court rejects Guildford Four appeals.

JULY 1, 1986. Yorkshire Television broadcasts *The Guildford Four Bomb*. Merlyn Rees, former Labour Home Secretary, expressing doubts about case.

OCTOBER 7, 1986. Letter from Lord Scarman in *The Times* queries pre-trial procedures, cites *Guildford and Maguire* cases.

OCTOBER 13, 1986. Robert Kee's book *Trial and Error* published. In letter to *The Times*, Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, urges Home Secretary to refer both cases to Court of Appeal.

JANUARY 7, 1987. All-party delegation of MPs presses Home Secretary to review Guildford and Birmingham cases.

JANUARY 20, 1987. Mr Hurd refers Birmingham case only back to Court of Appeal.

JULY 23, 1987. Cardinal Hume, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Merlyn Rees, Lord Justices Devlin and Scarman see Home Secretary. He agrees to look at new evidence.

AUGUST 14, 1987. Home Secretary orders police to reopen Woolwich and Guildford cases. JANUARY 28, 1988. Birmingham Six lose their appeal.

NOVEMBER 18, 1988. Cardinal Hume again urges Home Secretary to reopen the Guildford case, presenting fresh evidence. Archbishop of Canterbury lends his support.

they thought that mattered, not what a new jury might think. True. But what they had to think about was not whether in their view the accused were guilty on the dossier, but about the verdict of guilty given by the jury at the trial.

A verdict does not stand by itself and cannot be thought about without reference to what it is upon. In a trial it is upon evidence: the jury is charged to give "a true verdict according to the evidence". It is not suggested that in this case it did not do so. If thereafter new evidence is discovered that proves innocence, the verdict is not thereby made untrue.

So up to this point the verdict is "safe and satisfactory". But the statute requires it to be safe "under all the circumstances of the case". If the court has received new evidence which might destroy the verdict, that is a circumstance which alters the case. It makes it unsafe to proceed. So under the statute the verdict must be set aside as unsafe. If the Crown wants to proceed further, it must ask for a re-trial.

This is the procedure that has been followed since 1966. In the *Stafford* case the House did not follow it; but did not say what was wrong with it.

The House did not quash the verdict of Guilty. It — so to speak — suspended the verdict while it was itself examining the old and the new evidence. When it decided that the new evidence made no difference, it treated the verdict as if it had simply dropped back into place. But it was in truth a new "verdict" made upon a combination of old and new evidence; and it was not made by a jury.

There is nothing in the statute to authorize this process which is contrary to two fundamental principles: the first is that only a jury can make a verdict and the second that only a jury can find the facts. With respect it seems to us that it can be explained only as a misconstruction of the word "verdict". It interprets the word, not as the actual verdict of a jury, but as a label which can be attached to any conclusion of guilt or innocence.

There are two general considerations which support the limited construction we are putting on section 2.

First, the effect of the section as interpreted in the *Stafford* case is to authorize the judges to displace the jury as triers of fresh evidence. Parliament would not have done this without using express words and after a full debate. There was no debate at all in the Commons. In the Lords it was assumed that the object of the section was only to replace with the words "unsafe and unsatisfactory" the narrower words in the 1907 Act.

Second, the *Stafford* interpretation of section 2 is in conflict with section 7, the one that empowers the court which received the new evidence to order a new trial. It shows the court is not expected to adjudicate upon it itself.

JURY THREAT

From time immemorial all indictable crime has been tried by jury. When in 1968 Parliament permitted a re-trial in cases in which fresh evidence, credible and substantial, had come to light, the re-trial was naturally by jury.

Then in 1974 the House of Lords in the *Stafford* case put a new construction on section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 and asserted its power to hear and determine the new evidence itself. The House staged what was in substance, if not in form, a re-trial. The evidence was mainly circumstantial, except for the accused themselves not being dependent on the demeanour of the witnesses. The House combined the new evidence with the old, tried the case on paper and found the accused guilty.

The House said that this new approach was not compulsory. Each court must decide its own approach. But any hope that there

might still be a role for the jury in re-trials was speedily quelled. All approaches, it was made clear, would lead only to the new destination of the judge-made verdict. "If the court has no reasonable doubt about the verdict," the Lords said, "it follows that the court does not think that the jury could have one."

So far as we know, the only occasion on which such an astounding proposition has been put to a court of law was when it was rebuffed by Chief Justice Vaughan in 1670 in *Bushell's Case*. If it were so, he said, "every man sees that the jury is big a troublesome delay, great charge, and of no use in determining right and wrong, and therefore the trials by them may be better abolished than continued; which were a strange new-found conclusion."

"How then comes it to pass that two persons may not apprehend with reason and honesty what a witness, or many, say, to prove the understanding of one plainly one thing, but in the apprehension of the other, clearly the contrary thing... And this often is the case of the Judge and jury."

The doctrine which Vaughan ridiculed and which was revived in the *Stafford* case, when the House of Lords declared that if the judge had no reasonable doubt then the jury could not have one either, has been sharpened by the Court of Appeal in the case of the *Guildford Four* so as to pierce the heart of trial by jury. The court refused to order a new trial of the new evidence. There could be no need for it, it implied, since if a judge disbelieves a witness, so must a jury — "a strange new-found conclusion" indeed.

There is a passage in Blackstone in which he gives warning against a precedent that "though begun in trifles... may gradually increase and spread, to the utter disuse of juries in questions of the most momentous concern". It was in a marginal dispute that the *Stafford* case set the precedent. If pursued to the end it must logically lead to the utter disuse. But the pursuit may be halted by the forces of tradition and common sense.

The life imprisonment of the Four may not be momentous enough. But a concern most momentous to the State has now arisen. Britain is fighting off attacks by ruthless fanatics who live outside the law. The Crown will not fight them by depriving suspects of the rights they enjoy within the law. But it does hope for the support of the world in a fight against terrorism and has pledged itself to justice for all.

But there can be a fair trial by judges as well as by juries, can there not? True. But trial by jury is what we offer to all. It happens also to be what the two nations whose support we most need, the Irish Republic and the United States, offer to all. We cannot discriminate and still be fair.

The original trial of the *Guildford Four* was by jury. It was directed by a judge who was scrupulous in ensuring that all the protections of English law were given to the accused. The only issue — whether the confessions were voluntary and the truth — was a simple one. The jury was as scrupulous as the judge in considering it. The members debated for an afternoon, slept on it and talked again till midnight before they delivered their verdict of guilty. Would the new evidence have made no difference?

Four new witnesses appeared, who had committed twenty massacres of the same type. They said that they did this one and knew nothing of the *Guildford Four*. Were they lying when they said that? That was a question for a jury as it certainly would have been if the evidence had been given at the trial.

The Court of Appeal judges accepted that vital parts of what the new witnesses said might be true. If a jury thought the same, it would be for it and not for judges to put a value on the fragments that were left of the confessions and the Crown's case.

Justice for the *Guildford Four* is now in the forefront of a larger issue. Their fate has shattered our belief that there is no one in any English prison serving a sentence of more than a year who has not been found guilty by a jury which has heard substantially all the relevant evidence. Our constitutional law on which our freedoms depend has been disordered.

It is being said that the Home Secretary plans to extend the law providing for criminal re-trials. Unless he first restores the foundations, he will be building on rubble.

The political equivalent of Bruno versus Tyson is to take place in the Swiss ski resort of Davos in January. The occasion is a debate on "The Entrepreneurial and Social Future of Europe" at the hugely prestigious World Economic Forum. In the blue corner: Britain's Trade Secretary, Lord Young, champion of deregulation and a totally free European market. In the red: Jacques Delors, socialist president of the European Commission and champion of intervention, old-style corporatism and everything else that Young most abhors. The two men have long sparred from a distance. It will be their first face-to-face confrontation. Young is said to be spoiling for the fight.

Talking of contests, how about David Owen versus Sebastian Coe? Not on the running track, but in the SDP leader's Plymouth Devonport constituency at the next general election. The Olympic champion and Sports Council vice-chairman has revealed his interest in entering politics as a Conservative, and has fuelled speculation by agreeing to make his first political address to Plymouth Tories in January. The local agent, Stephen Maund, is playing down the idea, pointing out that Devonport

Tories will not choose a candidate until after next summer's Euro-elections and that Coe has accepted speaking invitations elsewhere. Coe will, however, have marked his card.

● The Prime Minister sent flowers to Virginia Bell, wife of her trusted image-maker Tim, on the birth of her first child the other day. The Bells have not reciprocated by naming the infant after Margaret, but they have done the next best thing. She is to be called Daisy, the Victorian diminutive for Margaret.

W e humble hacks find it hard to match the exacting standards set by former commando Paddy Ashdown. The Democrats' leader called a press conference to launch his party's campaign in the Epping Forest by-election for 0900 hours on Monday. Your correspondent was defeated by the traffic as he strove to reach London's north-eastern extremities in time. He was not the only one. Not a single journalist turned up to hear Ashdown, and to add to his displeasure his own new Rover was pranged by a lorry between Epping and central London.

TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

Three journalists managed to make the subsequent Tory press conference, and found that Steven Norris had been allocated Chelmsford MP Simon Burns as the candidate's traditional campaign "minder". This seemed slightly absurd. Norris was an MP for four years before losing his Oxford seat last year. Burns has been an MP for less than 18 months.

Y es, the Government is angry with Dublin for its failure to extradite Father Ryan, but the greatest object of ministerial venom is still the Belgian cabinet. Ministers have considered the dramatic step of recalling our ambassador for consultations following its rejection of Britain's extradition request last Friday. Other means of retaliation are limited, but I understand that the Belgian prime minister, Wilfried Martens, will not be able to count on

British support in the long-running battle to end the monthly sittings in Strasbourg of the European Parliament and make Brussels its sole seat.

● Neil Kinnock sacked his Scottish spokesman John Home Robertson earlier this month for advocating illegal resistance to the poll tax. Is the Labour leader forgiving, or does he fear that Home Robertson will make more trouble if shown of responsibility. On Friday he made him an agriculture spokesman.

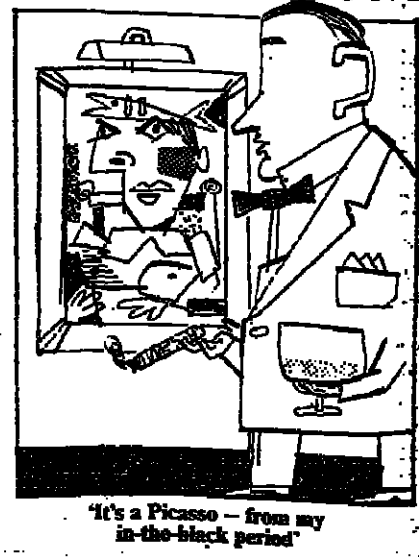
H ell hath no fury like the aggrieved Tory right. As I reported last week, the shadowy 92 Group are out to remove the dampish Michael Mates as secretary of the powerful backbench 1922 committee in tomorrow's elections for leading the poll tax

rebellion. I now hear they are also out to remove him from the chairmanship of the backbench Home Affairs committee next week. Mates's supporters are dumbstruck at the right's hypocrisy. Not only do 92 Group stalwarts like George Giddens and Teddy Taylor regularly vote against the Government on European issues (they claim to be keeping the faith, not rebelling), but the Group will tomorrow back one of its leading members, Dame Jill Knight, in her attempt to remain vice-chairman of the 1922. Dame Jill led this month's revolt against charges for eye and dental checks.

P ro-Pretoria right-wing Tory MP John Carlisle has cancelled a speech on South Africa's human rights at North London Polytechnic today. That was where Norman Tebbit was recently abused and spat upon, and as I reported last week Carlisle agreed to speak only if accompanied throughout by the poly's director, Leslie Wagner. Carlisle was not satisfied with Wagner's reply in which he said he would attend the meeting but not share the platform. He has written back to Wagner expressing disappointment that he was "not

willing to experience at first hand with me the harassment and abuse that visiting speakers can suffer" and accusing him of failing to ensure their "total security and protection".

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WARRANTS AND TRUST

Extradition arrangements between sovereign jurisdictions cannot work as smoothly as many politicians would wish. However harmonious the relations between the respective officialdoms may be, legal requirements will always be needed to ensure that justice is not committed. Misunderstanding, delay, and bad feeling can arise from those minimum safeguards alone.

Between Britain and the Republic of Ireland it is necessary that every political and official effort be directed to containing the necessary hindrances to an absolute minimum. Without further detail of both the application and response in the Ryan case, it is impossible to judge the precise grounds for the hesitation of the Irish authorities. But it is a minimum requirement that, as Mr Roy Hattersley rightly remarked yesterday, extradition should be treated judicially rather than politically.

Extradition decisions in the Republic are inevitably a matter of more political interest than elsewhere. Under the previous government in Dublin, London gained some small advantage from the fact that the government of the day was determined to resist political pressures not to extradite — and to do so if the law allowed. Mr Hanley's Government, living on a tiny parliamentary majority, has thrown away the progress thus made.

Irish ministers and officials acknowledge the need to fight terrorism with consistent firmness. But in practice, the Government amended its extradition arrangements with Britain in a wholly political fashion and with the wholly political intention of making extradition more difficult. This retreat signalled that the Anglo-Irish Agreement did not mean any effort by the Government in the South to lessen its dependence on those sections of opinion who distrust anti-terrorist cooperation between Britain and Ireland, particularly when it works.

Trust is at the heart of the matter. For extradition arrangements to exist at all between two countries, there has to be some degree of compatibility between the legal systems. Both parties need to feel that the defendant handed over will be fairly dealt with.

Does the Irish Government, co-signatory of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, mistrust the British legal system sufficiently to cease any possibility of extraditing fugitives to it?

Apparently not. If the system is fair enough for there to be extradition in existence at all, does it not follow that unstinting cooperation in accordance with the law would be the next step? Apparently not.

It would be cheating to think that this hypocritical inconsistency would be sorted out when the recent amendments come up for review. It seems improbable.

The Republic is not the only country where the British Government faces an uphill task of persuading public and political opinion. European governments which have faced terrorist violence over the past decade mostly know what reserves of stamina and dedication are required to confront it successfully.

If the dismantling of borders and closer liaison of police forces is to mean anything, those governments have to take their neighbours' problems as seriously as they take their own. At the moment the IRA has shown that it can successfully defend its Europe-wide freedom of movement with a combination of political pressure and the suggestion of retaliation, most recently successful in Belgium.

Diplomacy and a more aggressive campaign of European public information are the means to redress this dismal picture. The Rhodes summit at the end of the week is as good a place for the Prime Minister to start as any.

Part of that campaign should be a sensible reply to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the length of detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Consideration of the rights of the victims of terrorism — cited by the Prime Minister in a recent speech and voiced by the Home Office yesterday — is a humane attitude for policy-makers, but not a legal blueprint. Britain subscribes to the Convention which the court interprets and our record of following the judgements is unblemished so far.

The Government has an option beyond simply shortening the detention time allowed or announcing a derogation from the Convention. A judicial review could be built into the procedure for renewing a detention order; it would be slightly more cumbersome than the present form, but would hardly be likely to frustrate the police in the proper exercise of their duty.

BROWN v. LAWSON

The final day of the debate on the Queen's Speech was not the epic parliamentary occasion for which some had hoped. The Opposition Treasury spokesman, Mr Gordon Brown, called the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, arrogant and incompetent. Mr Lawson called Mr Brown trivial and economically illiterate. Government backbenchers surpassed themselves in incoherence by trying to put Mr Brown off his stroke with diversionary points of order. Reasoned argument was the loser.

In happier circumstances some of the points which arose would have borne development. Mr Brown called Mr Lawson "the stop-go Chancellor". The Government clearly did commit a policy error in reducing interest rates after the stock market crash a year ago.

Arguably it should have stuck to a tighter fiscal policy in the Budget. Mr Lawson was prepared to acknowledge, with hindsight, an element of "inadequate monetary rigour", while pointing out that his mistake had been shared by every other country — and compounded by the Opposition. The result of this error has been a rise in inflation and the need to raise interest rates to the highest level in nearly four years.

The real charge against the Government is that it has failed to find a reliable framework for monetary control. Like other countries, it has found trends in the money supply difficult to read in a rapidly-changing financial environment. Unlike some, it has been unwilling to substitute an explicit commitment to a particular exchange rate. Mr Lawson's pledge yesterday that he would maintain a strong pound for the foreseeable future is welcome amid the present inflationary dangers, but not quite the same thing.

There are also questions to be answered in relation to the Government's fiscal framework.

The medium-term financial strategy is admirable in concept. In practice, like monetary policy, it requires judgement in its application. The Budget surplus of £3 billion forecast this year in the Budget is likely to turn out at more than £10 billion, yet no one is saying that fiscal policy is too tight. It may be that in the next Budget it should be tightened further.

None the less, if the underlying conundrums of economic policy have by no means been resolved, Mr Lawson's defence of recent policy and the present economic situation is largely convincing. It is bizarre for the Opposition to call for policies to encourage investment when Britain (in common with other countries) is in the middle of an investment boom. The problem is the high level of spending overall.

The balance-of-payments deficit is worrying mainly because it is a symptom of other problems in the economy. Mr Lawson is right, in a narrow sense, to say that there is no such thing as a balance-of-payments crisis, only a sterling crisis. The trouble is one can lead to the other, and then on to higher inflation.

Taking the longer view, there is still every reason to be optimistic about the British economy. The supply-side reforms which the Government has achieved, including better industrial discipline, more competition in the public sector, and lower taxes, have produced a sustained increase in productivity. The tax reforms of the Budget have to be seen in the context of a once-in-a-parliament opportunity to make changes whose benefits will be felt over a period of years.

The present rise in interest rates is the correct response to an over-rapid rise in spending. It is beginning to have some effect, particularly on house prices, and will gradually serve to cool the economy down. Mr Lawson's achievements will be remembered well after his present difficulties have been forgotten.

NURSING GRIEVANCES

Only the Health Service could soak up nearly £1 billion more of taxpayers' money and still end up looking in need of intensive care. Seven months after a pay deal which was meant to make nurses, if not their patients, feel much better, morale in many hospitals appears poor. The Government must ask itself what went wrong.

In one sense the point is not all that difficult to answer. While most nurses' reaction to the April settlement was favourable, few realized the implications of what they read. What they saw was a regrading exercise which would reward all those with clinical skills and training. What they failed to perceive was that some would get much more than others.

What the Government was introducing in fact was not a simple job-regrading exercise, but a restructuring of the profession and the relationship of one post to another. It was building a new career pyramid, with pay related to individual positions.

The reasoning behind this was sensible. By creating a more sharply-defined structure it promised a fresh set of incentives in a profession which was badly in need of them. What went wrong was that the nurses failed to grasp the impact of all this on their pay.

What looked like a big pay rise in total turned out to be very variable in detail. Sisters who had shared responsibility for a ward now found that one of them was to be paid more than the others. Some nurses who had been paid more than less experienced colleagues now found they were all on the same scale.

The Department of Health must take some of the blame for failing to make the strategy crystal clear. It may now be questioning the

decision to regrade and restructure at the same time. Had the process been extended over two years it might have been more easily accepted.

That, however, is now water under the bridge. Finding out what went wrong does not necessarily help to end the present autumn of discontent. The Government ought not now to retreat; there is no reason why it should. Fundamentally the changes make good sense and the profession will learn to live with them, given time. The nurses will soon get their back-dated rises and the effect should help to mollify many of those who feel disgruntled.

Those who still have a genuine sense of grievance should concentrate on using the appeals procedure. This is the route which midwives should follow if they wish to pursue their claim for special treatment.

But if this is to act as an efficient corrective, diverting staff from the path of industrial action, the Government should ensure that appeals are heard quickly and that the decisions come soon. A protracted procedure would only add to present frustrations and prolong the problems for both sides.

Those staff midwives who have spent 18 months on midwifery courses, only to find themselves on the same grade as those who have not, might well feel they deserve a better hearing — especially given the high degree of personal responsibility entailed. They may have a particular local problem. They must equally know that they leave a gap in the service which cannot easily be filled. To resign en bloc, as 44 of them did this week at North Middlesex Hospital, remains irresponsible and deserves little sympathy.

US exclusion of Palestinians

From Dr Musa Mazzawi

Sir, By refusing Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa (report, November 28) the US Administration has ironically done the Palestinians a favour. It has unmasked itself as biased against the Arabs and subservient to the Zionist lobby, and consequently unfit to play the role of honest broker and peacemaker in the Middle East. The whole idea of negotiating a settlement with the United States as one of the main referees is now seen to be both foolish and dangerous. The Palestinians cannot expect a fair deal from either the Israelis or the Americans.

In your editorial today (November 29) you give prominence to an incident when Fatah — a constituent part of the PLO — is alleged to have planted a bomb in Jerusalem. Admittedly there is a difference between terrorism and legitimate struggle, but the line is either blurred or non-existent when it comes to the Palestinians, including children, who become "terrorists" when they protest against oppression and are killed by State bullets.

If a just and lasting solution to the Palestine problem is to be achieved it will have to be on the basis of law and morals. The Camp David agreements between the US, Israel, and Egypt — and from which the Palestinians were excluded — are not relevant. Justice will have to be done according to UN resolutions — as clearly requested by the Palestine National Council at its Algiers meeting. On that basis the PNC has proclaimed the Arab State of Palestine.

In international law the constituent elements of a state are a territory, a people, and a government. Nobody can deny that the territory exists, although its boundaries have not been defined, but there is precedent (including that of Israel) of a state being recognized in circumstances when part of the territory it claimed was not accepted as legitimately belonging to it. In any case there are UN resolutions to clarify this matter.

The second issue — the existence of a people — cannot be gainsaid. As regards the third criterion — the government — the PLO Executive has assumed this function.

The State of Palestine will need to be admitted to the United Nations. Of course the US can exercise its veto in the Security Council against this. But when the use of the veto against admission was considered by the International Court of Justice at The Hague in 1948 and 1950 the court said that a member state exercise its veto only "in good faith". The Palestinians hope that the incoming US Administration will have better sense and a better conscience about leaving the Palestinians out in the cold.

Yours faithfully,
MUSA MAZZAWI,
2 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4,
November 29.

Help for sport

From Professor J. S. Malpas and others

Sir, It has saddened us all to learn of the recent liquidation of Sport Aid Ltd, and it has saddened us further to learn that its end has been a detrimental effect on another fund-raising group.

The Sportsman's Aid Society, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, has raised many millions of pounds. Each of the hospitals that the Sportsman's Aid Society supports, together with the patients whom these hospitals treat, have benefited enormously from the efforts of that society.

The Sportsman's Aid Society is currently raising the vast sums of money necessary to create Europe's first adolescent cancer unit — and the first unit will be open soon, at the Middlesex Hospital and University College Hospital in London.

In addition, Harefield Hospital is receiving generous support from the Sportsman's Aid Society to fund the new children's intensive-care unit in the hospital.

Not only should the society be congratulated on its golden anniversary, but also it is hoped that this letter will help dispel any confusion that might exist between Sport Aid Ltd and the Sportsman's Aid Society — so that the Sportsman's Aid Society's fund-raising activities will continue unhindered.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. MALPAS (St Bartholomew's Hospital),
M. YACOB (Harefield Hospital),
R. RADLEY-SMITH (Harefield Hospital),
ROBERT SOUHAM (University College & Middlesex School of Medicine),
The Sportsman's Aid Society,
Kirkman House,
54a Tottenham Court Road, W1,
November 28.

Mappa Mundi sale

From the Dean of Lincoln
Sir, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is being refurbished at a cost of £30 million (report, November 18). One wonders what maps they were forced to sell.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER FIENNES,
The Deanery, Lincoln.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Putting the budgets to rights

From Chancellor Harvey Cole

Sir, The Chancellor's view of the economic scene may be less flawed than his critics claim. Certainly, the overseas trade deficit is financially for some time, and the surge of imports has actually helped to restrain inflation.

What is curious is Mr Lawson's insistence on relying on a single weapon — interest rates — thus in effect tying one-and-a-half arms behind his back. Interest rates are given a twin role: first, by acting on the housing market, they are intended to take the steam out of the consumer boom generally. Then, by squeezing the profitability of industry and commerce through a high exchange value for sterling, they are supposed to force employers to reduce the pace of pay increases.

Both sequences of cause and effect are likely to be indirect, and therefore less likely to work. Over a quarter of the extra mortgage interest that will be charged will be met by the Treasury through tax relief — and higher interest paid to building society and other depositors will increase their spending power while that of house-buyers is cut. A similar, and more certain, effect could be achieved by reducing the scale of tax relief.

The indirect pressure Mr Lawson hopes to exert on pay is only possible because of the very sharp rise in profits which has occurred in the past two years; indeed this appears to have contributed at least as much to the rise in inflation as wages and salaries themselves. This could be tackled at source by raising the rate of tax on profits.

These two touches on the fiscal tiller would result in a better balance of interest and exchange rates than we are now heading for. They would also tackle inflation more effectively than exclusive reliance on interest rates — which feed back into further cost and price increases ever more rapidly. Yours &c.,
HARVEY R. COLE,
9 Clifton Road,
Winchester, Hampshire,
November 23.

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, Those who agonise about the twin US deficits should stop for a moment and ask themselves how they have come about, what effect they have had on the world economy, and what would be the consequences for it of drastic action by the United States to reduce or eliminate them quickly.

The United States has for many years been operating a policy of massive demand stimulation via an unbalanced budget on almost pure Keynesian lines. There have been difficulties on the way.

Against that, the benefits have been enormous, in economic growth, expanded international trade, and rising standards of

Water sell-off

From the Director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England

Sir, Ministers are suggesting that their water privatisation proposals as a whole should be seen as an environmental measure. This carries a danger of confusion.

It is true that the proposal for a National Rivers Authority (NRA) is the public sector stems from environmental concerns and could bring major benefits. These depend in practice on the powers and resources of the new authority and its relations with her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, but the principle of separating environmental and regulatory responsibilities from those of supplying water services is correct and good for the environment.

In justifying the plan for an NRA, however, the Government made it clear that such a move would be necessary whether or not the industry were privatised. For the proposal to sell the water authorities to the private sector is a separate issue and does not arise from environmental concerns: the Government was committed to privatisation long before it had thought of the NRA.

Aspects of transfer to the private sector do indeed pose substantial environmental problems. There is an enormous prospective increase in development pressure on water authority land and reservoirs as they pass into the hands of private companies with extensive property interests.

There is the question of how water services are to be supplied impartially, and disinterested advice given on the water and sewerage planning proposals, by private sector companies with extensive development interests

Falkland policies

From Mr Daniel Parsons

Sir, Sir Anthony Kershaw, in his letter published on November 23, left three principal questions unanswered.

Firstly, whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office shared his view that the proposal to withdraw HMS Endurance did not send a wrong signal to Argentina; and if so, what was the basis of the FCO's opposition to this proposal made by the Ministry of Defence.

Secondly, whether the Foreign Office shared his belief (and had the evidence to support it) that "Gallien was not in the mood for reading signals"; and if so, how it intended to "make clear" to Argentina "that we could not cede sovereignty without their (the Falkland Islanders') consent".

And thirdly, who was respon-

sible for determining the four policy choices he described (the Foreign Office? and why these choices were "easy to see" if only one of them "made sense").

One is reminded of Henry Kissinger's description of the "Goldilocks" principle: a bureaucracy, when advising upon future policy, will invariably propose three alternatives: the first, if acted upon, would lead to world war; the second, to object surrender; the third (commonly placed between the first two) to the maintenance of the status quo — the bureaucracy's own policy preference. No doubt the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is more sophisticated in its working habits.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL PARSONS,
64 Malva Place,
Perth,
November 23.

The EEC in particular should look very carefully at its highly protectionist agricultural policy, which causes so much resentment in the United States. All this would also greatly help the new US Administration to hold its own protectionist lobbies in check and to resist dangerous pressures to abandon prematurely policies which have brought such enormous gains to itself and the rest of the world.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLDMAN,
White Gate, Church Lane,
Haslemere, Surrey,
November 28.

From Mr Michael Desmond

Sir, Some years ago, prior to the last but one general election, the Labour Party proposed an alternative economic strategy which was promptly branded as a philosophy of "siege economy" by the tabloid press and "tabloid" Tory politicians.

The notion of the planned growth of imports (together with the expansion of our own manufacturing base) was laughed out of court at the time, but may ultimately be perceived as the only practical possibility of achieving sustained growth. The current unplanned slashing of imports and home-produced products (or rather the crude efforts the Chancellor is now making in that direction) are indicative of the use of economic bludgeons rather than scalpels.

Surely we can convince our European partners that it is better to share growth by agreeing levels of import penetration that are sustainable rather than allowing market forces to lead to shared recession. Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL DESMOND,
Airedale, Sach Road,
Clapton, E5,
November 28.

of their own. There are further questions about the accomplishment of vital capital — and labour-intensive environmental tasks which bring very little profit.

It may prove possible to counteract some or all of these potential environmental problems, but what is clear is that privatisation, as distinct from the establishment of the NRA, is not an environmental measure and must be justified on other grounds.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PURKIS, Director,
Council for the Protection of Rural England,
4 Hobart Place, SW1,
November 23.

From the Chairman of the Institute for Social Inventions

Sir, I was browsing in the *Encyclopedia for Social Reform*, published in 1905, when I came upon the following in the section on water works:

The reason for the changes from private to public ownership of waterworks (in the USA) is that private ownership was found to be profitable to individuals rather than wholesome to the cities; with a higher education and a somewhat higher honesty in civic matters, people became aware of the fact that a matter of such importance as water supply — on which the health of a city primarily depends — should not be left to the discretion of private individuals, since the temptation to make it a matter of profit was always lurking in the background. The experience of most cities with municipal ownership encouraged others to follow their example.

I foresee that a similar passage about British waterworks will appear in 21st-century history books.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ALBERY, Chairman,
The Institute for Social Inventions,
24 Abercorn Place, NW8,
November 25.

sible for determining the four policy choices he described (the Foreign Office? and why these choices were "easy to see" if only one of them "made sense").

One is reminded of Henry Kissinger's description of the "Goldilocks" principle: a bureaucracy, when advising upon future policy, will invariably propose three alternatives: the first, if acted upon, would lead to world war; the second, to object surrender; the third (commonly placed between the first two) to the maintenance of the status quo — the bureaucracy's own policy preference. No doubt the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is more sophisticated in its working habits.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL PARSONS,
64 Malva Place,
Perth,
November 23.

A routine test for Aids virus

From Dr David Owen, MP for Plymouth, Devonport (SDP)

Sir, Where are the leaders of the medical profession who will object, on ethical and public-health grounds, to the Government introducing anonymised testing for the HIV virus responsible for Aids?

Why is the medical profession not championing the routine testing of blood samples for HIV with totally confidential counselling for anyone found to be positive? That is how we have dealt with past pandemics in this country. The medical profession has always resisted compulsory testing, but has argued that patients can rely on the absolute confidentiality that surrounds routine testing. The best example of this has been the routine Wassermann blood testing for syphilis over many decades.

Asking people whether they wish to be tested always produces a very low approval rate. Recently when 1,500 women attending for ante-natal blood tests in City and Hackney health district were invited to have an HIV test, only nine agreed.

By contrast, from October, 1983, until the end of 1987 5,840,520 blood donations were tested for HIV virus without anyone being specifically asked: 92 were found to be positive; all but three were contacted for confidential counselling.

The logic of accepting anonymised testing would be to stop revealing HIV-positive results to people who donate blood. Can that be ethically right? Are not people entitled to know and to be able to take steps if they wish to reduce the risk of passing the HIV virus on to people they know?

Anonymised testing at this stage in the Aids pandemic is quite simply wrong and the medical profession should say so. Yours sincerely,
DAVID OWEN,
House of Commons,
November 29.

Reading and writing

From Ms Pamela Barnard

Sir, Public debate about the teaching of English often bears as much relationship to the facts about children learning the complex and subtle system of language as "He was bonkers." "No, he wasn't" does to Hamlet.

As the Cox committee's report, *English for Ages 5-11* (details, November 16) observed, Education policy does not follow automatically from facts about children's language: it depends on beliefs about individuals and society.

The strength of this report is that it does present the facts and the good practice which stems from them. The recommendations for the curriculum in English are well founded in sound research, careful observation, and reflective theory. Teachers of English will recognise much that they already do — and would wish to do.

How our language is taught is of crucial importance. The quality of the report provides the basis for the kind of informed and thoughtful debate which English and its teachers deserve.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA BARNARD
(Executive Committee member,
National Association for the Teaching of English),
Aller Down Cottage,
Coppice Lane, Sandford,
Credon, Devon,
November 19.

Land for housing

From Mr T. M. Forde

Sir, The arguments put forward for a market-led supply of land for housing (Mr Winston's letter, November 17) in order to satisfy "demand" are ones which have been deployed extensively (and expensively) by the house-building industry at hundreds of planning appeals and inquiries into development plans. But Mr Winston sees only half the picture in pinning the blame for high house prices on shortages in the supply of land.

The ease of mortgage borrowing has been compounded by private-sector wage inflation, well above the cost of living, which enlarges the basis of borrowing. We are also seeing the recycling through inheritance of capital formed by an earlier generation of borrowers.

Thus the very free availability of borrowed money for house purchase, usually starting with middle and upper-income earners, has been a major contribution to the housing price spiral. As home-owners "trade up" and move house so are prices pulled up for purchasers lower down the scale. Too much money can have the same effect as too little land. Yours faithfully,
THOMAS FORDE,
10 Holmshurst Road, SW15,
November 18.

Ys and wherefores

From Mrs Alexandra Scott

Sir, I was running through the alphabet with my four-year-old twins. You know the sort of thing. "A" is for apple, "B" is for ball, etc. When we got as far as the letter "Y" one of them piped up, "Y is for yuppier!" To make matters worse neither of them had a clue what it meant and, unusually for me, I was lost for words! Yours sincerely,
ALEX SCOTT,
Lea Bank, Fosse Way,
Tredington, Warwickshire.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Human frailty

Television documentary presenters are usually omnipotent: they guide us through mysteries of art, science, and the universe, always on top of their subject. Human frailty rarely intervenes. Which was what made the tenth programme of the series *The Mind Machine* (BBC2) such a surprise.

It was about creativity and depression, and presenter Colin Blakemore introduced his wife, Andrée, as someone who suffered deep depressions. She talked frankly about it, and met another depressive: they discussed symptoms and possible escape routes.

Even more hopeless was the American mother, interviewed in mid-depressive cycle, who doubted that it was worth the trouble to escape. Also from the American side (the series is a co-production with WNET, New York) we saw extraordinary film of a manic depressive during a manic phase, as well as the startling results of drug treatment and ECT; and we were introduced to new research on the hereditary genes which seem to carry depressive syndromes.

But, because this is an expensive documentary series, we also had the inevitable location coverage: a visit to the scene of Van Gogh's suicide. This raised the far more tricky question of how far depression is the other side of intense creativity. When he was active, Van Gogh saw the world with a "terrible lucidity" and painted like fury. Is the enhanced self-esteem inherent in manic activity a piercing vision of reality, or a deluded perversion of it?

The first in the new series of *The Banding File* (C4) explored the disturbing case of Clinton McCurtain, who died while being arrested by police in a shop in Wolverhampton. The film was dead-pan in its approach, but raised major questions.

The police put out an immediate statement that he had died of cardiac arrest, probably under the influence of drugs; but a Home Office post-mortem the next day said he died of asphyxiation while being held down by police officers. A senior policeman said: "It was a pity" that this contradicted their original statement, which summed up the gulf between the police and the dead man's family.

William Holmes

David Sinclair meets blind guitarist Jeff Healey and witnesses the first concert in Britain by the Canadian and his band

Rocking through the blues



Anything but a rock star in appearance? Healey is a radio show presenter as well as a prodigious musician

Jeff Healey was virtually unheard of in Britain less than a month ago. Then, with the release of an extraordinary debut album, *See The Light*, which vigorously updated the high-voltage blues-rock themes pioneered in the Sixties by Hendrix and Clapton, there came reports of a 22-year-old Canadian, born with eye cancer, and blind from the age of one. Something of a child prodigy, he began teaching himself from the age of seven to play the guitar, but found it uncomfortable to hold the instrument the way he was told it should be held, and instead evolved his own method of playing, with the guitar laid flat across his lap.

The story is a publicist's dream, but for Healey himself, facing a round of radio and TV interviews on his first visit to London, to talk of his peculiar background and playing style is to tread a fine line between either flaunting or denying his disability. As he explained to one radio interviewer who pumped him mercilessly on this point: "The fact is that it doesn't make any difference to the sound I make. No one who simply heard the record, without knowing who we were or being told anything about us, would have any idea that I was a blind musician who happens to play the guitar on my lap."

A much happier time was had earlier in the afternoon when Healey and his band (the drummer Tom Stephen and the bassist Joe Rockman) were guests on Johnnie Walker's show on Greater London Radio. Healey has a collection of roughly 10,000 78 rpm records and 700-1,000 reissue albums of jazz material from the Twenties and Thirties, and in selecting tracks for Walker to play he revealed a phenomenal memory for the minutiae of recording details. One of his selections was "Cornet Chop Suey" — "recorded on 26 February, 1926" by Louis Armstrong.

"A lot of people ask me who my influences are, expecting me to say Hendrix or some such, but my initial musical influence was Louis Armstrong. My dad had several of his albums and I remember at the age of two being consciously aware of his music and of how much fun and energy he had as a musician. He almost

singlehandedly invented improvisation, which few people now seem to remember."

As well as revealing a languid and extremely droll sense of humour, it transpires that Healey used to be a DJ with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, from the age of 14 to 16, and still presents a weekly university radio show. As a teenager he studied music theory for three years, learning to read braille music and receiving his formal certificate of harmony and arranging.

The son of a Toronto fireman, he has twin sisters three years younger than he, but is the only one of his family to have shown any musical inclinations. He began playing in local bands in Toronto, eventually forming his own group with the current line-up three years ago, after various jam sessions at Grossman's Tavern in Toronto.

With his shoulder-length blond hair and chubby, babyish face, Healey looks anything but a rock star, and seems to have made a conscious decision not to adopt the items of uniform — leather jacket, feather haircut, dark glasses and so forth — which proliferate in his chosen line of work. The drummer Tom Stephen carefully brushes Healey's hair for him before he starts a television interview. "I'm not in this business to be a heroic figure," he tells the interviewer. "I like to play music. Period."

That much is more apparent than ever when the band eventually takes the stage for the first of two shows at the jam-packed 300-capacity Borderline club. Healey sits with the guitar on his lap, which means that given the low elevation of the stage it is not possible for more than a handful of people at the front of the crowd actually to see what he is playing. This is a frustration for some, but does nothing to impede an ecstatic reception.

His playing technique is astounding. He picks normally with his right hand, while his left hand roves around the fretboard with a deceptively gentle fluidity, prompting the image of a sea anemone drifting backwards and forwards in the water.

The obvious advantage of this is that he is able to bring his thumb into active service as well as his

four fingers. In fact when soloing, his thumb, which he has trained to move in a blur of speed, does the job that would conventionally be done by the third finger, taking care of the business end of the fast runs, and most of the trills and hammering on. His fingers deal with string bends, which, pulling sideways, he seems to be able to achieve with enhanced ferocity and accuracy.

The rhythm section is solid and unfussy, leaving the floor clear for Healey to shine, and playing a classic black Stratocaster, he distills the kind of fervour which has long been missing in this kind of music.

But, while the method is entirely original, the use to which he puts it is anything but new, and if one wishes to quarrel with Healey it would be over the unapologetically revivalist nature of his material. He has a great ear for sounds and harmonic progressions and his versions of "White Room" and "All Along the Watchtower" duplicate those of Cream and Hendrix with uncanny precision. On a wired version of "Further on up the Road" he sounds more like early Clapton than Clapton did himself.

But these are selections which betray the remnants of a bar band mentality (indeed, they learned "White Room" for a part in a forthcoming movie, *Roadhouse*, in which the Healey trio plays the resident bar band). Better by far are the more soulful original "My Little Girl", the romping John Hiatt song "Confidence Man" and a cracking version of a lesser known ZZ Top number, "Blue Jean Blues", material into which he seems to have poured some of his life blood, and which is better suited to his warm, gruff singing voice.

Every so often he leaps to his feet in an awkward, shuffling manner and the electricity seems to crackle round the walls of the densely packed club. Perhaps he is in danger of being over-lionized for what is in essence a straightforward blues-rock repertoire. But, despite his down-to-earth personality, when he throws his head back as he plays, and his piercing blue eyes look straight ahead, it is hard not to think of him as privy to some unequivocally divine inspiration.

Stockhausen's signals

LS/Eötvös
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The South Bank has repeated the lesson in the two Stockhausens that Huddersfield provided, with one programme devoted to the becalmed, didactic mystery-plays of the last dozen years and another opening a window on the challenge and excitement of the mid-1960s.

Stockhausen's principal endeavour at that time was in creating kinds of music quite particular to the electronic world: each of his main works seemed to strike directly at some crucial aspect of the medium. So, in the tape piece *Telemusik* we listen, as it were, to an astronaut's short-wave radio, picking up bunches of high tones and more or less mangled musical signals from all

CONCERTS

over the globe. And in *Mixtur* a similar sort of electronic modulation is applied to live orchestral groups, so that a double bass or a brass group or a woodwind quartet can produce weirdly exaggerated and distorted sounds.

It was an excellent plan to pair these works, comparable in their sound worlds and even more alike in their forms, each a sequence of distinct segments which the very particularity of the sound world brings into an alliance. Heard straight after *Telemusik*, where marvellous things go on in the dazzling glare of the high frequencies, the second performance of *Mixtur* seemed quite marvellous too: the tape piece perhaps gave the clue to how one must hear Stockhausen's unified dis-

continuities, looking not for lines of development but rather for family traits that jump out from more or less adjacent moments.

Both performances of *Mixtur* also gained from an electronic system that showed the positive (instrumental sounds setting off grand vibrations, like objects dropped into a piano) as well as the negative (as of a poorly tuned radio) faces of modulation. And the work's mobile form thoroughly justified itself in allowing us to hear the 20 sections in two different orders, one the reverse of the other, zooming backwards over the same fluorescent musical landscape. It must be strange to play a piece where the loudspeakers play havoc with your sound, but the London Sinfonietta under Peter Eötvös produced two performances of vivid gesture.

Paul Griffiths

Unsparring physicality

LSO/Rostropovich
Barbican Hall

The day after the news — still more news — broke of the 10 million who suffered unjustly under Stalin between 1941 and 1946, Shostakovich's Eighth Symphony (1943) was performed at the Barbican.

The fact that it was conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich, who, with Galina Vishnevskaya, has fought long years to have even a fragment of these truths unearthed, had to be an inextricable element of the performance. That it was also clear and long-sighted to its structural grasp, and unsparringly physically present in its own right, sealed its memorability in what is turning out to be a

revealing series of "Music From the Flames".

There were times when, for a split second, the barline seemed to slide sideways as a moment of technical control eluded Rostropovich's baton. But this was far outweighed by his instinct for the long, disturbed breathing of the massive first Adagio, the breadth of eloquence he drew from the entire body of strings in the savagery of the third movement; and, most important of all, the sense of fragile equilibrium he allowed the work's final, slow exit.

Were it not for the stature of both the work and its performance by the London Symphony Orchestra, the main story would undoubtedly have been from the first half of the evening: a suite of five extracts from Shostakovich's

opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. This was the work whose violent subject matter and raw, uncompromising musical treatment had so enraged Stalin, and which kindled the notorious "Chaos instead of Music" leader in Pravda.

The entr'actes, each one searchingly and pungently played, acted as synoptic stills of the opera: the relationship between Katerina, her husband, her lover, the double murder and the fateful wedding. Rostropovich shuffled them round in order to begin in the eye of the emotional storm and end with the ear-splitting scherzo which forms the dramatic pivot of the entire opera.

Hilary Finch

LCP/Norrington
Queen Elizabeth Hall

As period-instrument ensembles progress ever deeper into the 19th-century repertoire, with its treacherous technical pitfalls, the race to be the first historical-performance group to reach Wagner is becoming rather like the 1911 dash to the South Pole — though in this case it seems unlikely that the winners

will be Norwegian. But with this concert, inaugurating the London Classical Players' "Schubert and the Early Romantics" series, one felt that Roger Norrington took one step forward and two steps back.

The retreat took the form of a mundane, scrappy performance of Schubert's Fifth Symphony, in which the pleasures of light textures and swift speeds were more than outweighed by poorly pointed woodwind parading, a violin sound without thrust (admittedly the LCP's usual leader, the rock-like John Holloway, is injured) and — most unusually for Norrington — an interpretation of no discernible personality.

Luckily, Melvyn Tan was on hand with a performance of Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto that, for all its quixotic rubato touches in the finale and slightly

careless execution in the first movement, projected enough personality for the whole platform. Tan is a mannerist, preferring brilliant, witty rhetorical flourishes to soul-baring intensity — and that suits the quirky, unsustainable timbres of his instrument (an Adlam fortepiano, modelled on an 1814 Streicher). Even so, his disarmingly simple, brisk reading of the Adagio was invested with a wonderful sense of line and considerable tonal beauty. Moreover, the balance between soloist and orchestra — always problematical with the fortepiano — was exemplary.

Richard Morrison

Musical Challenge

In the Musical Challenge last week, Question 17 (a) should have asked: what opera is set in Allemonde? (not Emmonod)

OPERA

Dream of an event

The Fairy Queen
Middle Temple Hall

If the world were a better place, it would not take private sponsorship to set up an event like this staging of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, a collaboration between the Guildhall School of Music and the Royal Conservatory, The Hague, which celebrates the tercentenary of the accession of William and Mary.

The production must nevertheless be greeted with unmitigated glee, for everything most crucial to its success — John Midgley's direction, Sue Lefson's choreography, Clive Lavagna's sumptuous looking costume and ingeniously economical set designs, John Roffey's lighting, and not least the situation of the Elizabethan Middle Temple Hall, which in 1601 saw Shakespeare himself in *Twelfth Night* — works perfectly.

Midgley has made cuts in both text and music to keep the evening to manageable proportions. The spoken narrative flows easily, thanks to the skilled timing of the Guildhall actors. First among these are the gracefully imperious Titania of Geraldine Sonnerville and the mercurial duo of Rhys Ifans and the athletic Carlos Wagner as Oberon and Puck. These characters are strongly backed by the impeccably delivered wit of the four lovers and the six "mechanicals", and fixed grins apart, by a well-drilled team of dancing and singing courtiers.

Purcell's marvellous music embellishes the anonymously adapted Shakespeare lavishly and its incidental nature, more or less cleverly woven into the fabric of the drama, provides here an opportunity for a good number of show their abilities. Among a predominantly and appropriately light sounding cast, Bernadette Lord, in the role of Night, shows a rich voice in the making and Francois Poulain, who give "now the Night is chas'd away", has a promisingly creamy sounding tenor.

All, though, are to be praised for their acute rhythmic awareness, inspired no doubt by the charismatic direction of William Christie and by the generally superb playing of the Baroque Orchestra of the Royal Conservatory, augmented by Guildhall's trumpets. Last London performance tonight, then the troupe moves to the Hague's Nieuwe Kerk for performances this Sunday and Monday.

Stephen Pettitt

A star reigns supreme

DONALD COOPER

THEATRE

Richard II
Phoenix

With our revered state-subsidized institutions going at full blast, it is quite a shock to open the Phoenix programme and see how many good actors, familiar faces from the RSC and the National Theatre, are available for this joint season by Triumph Productions and the Washington Kennedy Centre.

Almost without exception, though, their function is to set off the season's star, Derek Jacobi. That is also the clear aim of Clifford Williams's production, retelling the sad story of Richard's fall with total concentration on the descent of glistering Phaeton. Seldom have I seen this tragedy astounding in so many no-thanks parts: with Malcolm Tierney's York huffing and puffing himself into alliance with the Lancastrian wolves; Barbara Jefford making a last minute arrival for the Auncer plot and failing to achieve the comic gear change; and Pete Postlethwaite's Mowbray making an unscheduled return from exile disguised as the Palace gardener.

The defence, I suppose, is to view *Richard II* as a medieval play with a Renaissance hero: a live monarch surrounded by a pack of heraldic playing cards. But that does not take account of Bolingbroke, the flinty progenitor of the next regime. David Rintoul presents him as a virile martial figure, immovably aloof as underlings perform his dirty work; never con-



Monarch and Mowbray: Derek Jacobi (left) and Pete Postlethwaite

veying a hint of the dark thoughts behind the gallant public facade.

Jacobi's Richard settles decisively for the "monarch as actor" approach. Neither he nor the production reverts to the sacramental doctrine of kingship. The throne in Carl Toms's set, monumentally dominating the stage below, is simply a star property: as theatrical to the court as it is to the Phoenix customers. And when the king mounts or descends, it is hardly more a state occasion than the walkdown in *Hello Dolly*.

On these limited terms, Jacobi works with extreme skill, grace, and variety. His walk is a pleasure to watch, so is the impassive tableau of his entourage; and hence also the pleasurable shock when he reveals the brattish self-admiration and insensitivity behind the regal facade. From the start he packs in more nuances and changes of emotional direction than those diplomatic open-

ing scenes usually yield: deftly cutting Bolingbroke down to size as a distant relation, abruptly screaming an order to Gaunt to pacify his son; and expressing through a wealth of off-hand gestures and supercilious throwaways that he is a law unto himself.

He has at least one equal opponent in Robert Eddison's Gaunt, who amazingly delivers the "scepter'd isle" aria as though it had entered his mind as a prophetic inspiration, and who receives the King not lying in a litter but on his feet, beginning in the manner of a courteous host and then building into the admonitions bring on a stroke when Richard (a shocking novelty) slaps the dying man on the face. Jacobi later makes an uncritical descent into luxurious self-pity, but his crack-up in the base court scene is a stupendous feat of rhetoric.

Irving Wardle

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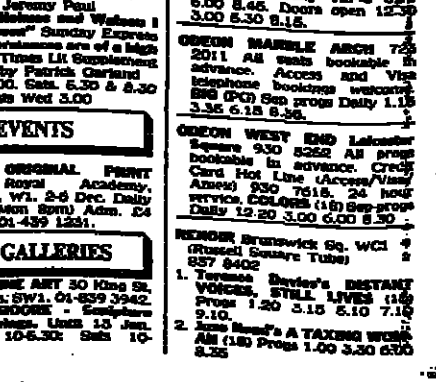
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Plight of Armenia writer is reviewed

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

The British Refugee Council has stepped in to help Alexander Shaganyan, the Armenian playwright seeking political asylum in Britain, as Government ministers yesterday inquired about his case.

Mr Timothy Renton, the Home Office minister responsible for immigration, is understood to have asked his officials about the plight of Mr Shaganyan, who is now in hiding in London after having his verbal appeal for asylum summarily dismissed by an immigration official.

Mr Renton made inquiries following yesterday's story in *The Times*, which disclosed how the Armenian, aged 49, walked into the BBC almost two weeks ago and made his request known.

Having spoken to a Russian-speaking BBC employee, Mr Shaganyan went to a local police station and four hours later was briefly interviewed by the immigration officer.

Within minutes his verbal request for political asylum was turned down and it was suggested he rejoined his group of Soviet writers visiting Britain at their hotel in Russell Square — in spite of the danger of him being found out and seized by the KGB.

The Home Office version of events is that Mr Shaganyan, who does not speak a word of English, made a verbal request — but that did not amount to a formal application for political asylum. The immigration official told him that on the basis of initial evidence any application was unlikely to succeed.

Mr Lionel Bloch, a London lawyer, has now made a formal application on Mr Shaganyan's behalf and ministers admit the publicity could "force their hand".

As the playwright remained in hiding yesterday, more details emerged of his background and determination to leave the Soviet Union. Although born in Armenia, he lived in Moscow where he had a relatively privileged existence, with a high income, car and dacha.

Although determined to stay in Britain he faces the prospect of a meagre existence here over the next few weeks. The British Refugee Council is planning to try and find him a local authority home and obtain living expenses from the DHSS — totalling £33 a week.

Mr Bloch said yesterday a formal application for political asylum had been made on November 23 — five days after Mr Shaganyan had been interviewed by the immigration official — and it had been acknowledged by the Home Office the following day.

"He has objective reasons for not wanting to go back. He was one of the most active agitators in Moscow for the Armenians..."

"His going back to Russia at this stage would be very risky indeed," Mr Bloch said.

Meeting a Chinese symbol of health



Alive and well and living in Dean Street: This Chinese dragon was greeted by the junior Health Minister, Mrs Edwina Currie, when she visited a health care centre for London's Chinese community in Soho yesterday. Among the aims of the centre, which is funded by the DHSS, is the promotion of racial equality.

University staff threaten to resign

Researchers angry over MoD cash

By Sam Kiley and Peter Guilford

Researchers at Bristol University are threatening to resign over a decision to accept finance from the Ministry of Defence for work on an airborne disease which they believe can only promote the development of offensive biological weapons.

Several members of the Animal Husbandry Department of Bristol University's School of Veterinary Science may walk out over a plan to study the bacterium *klebsiella pneumoniae*, which they say can cause illness and death in humans.

Objections were first raised in August when the plan to study four airborne bacteria causing lung infections in animals was redirected by the Ministry of Defence, after funding was refused from the Agricultural and Food Research Council.

"Although the research could have

perfectly innocent applications, because scientists will be investigating the atmospheric conditions under which the pneumonia type bacteria is most active — why is the MoD financing it," one source, who is considering resigning a lectureship, said.

Dr Sue Mayer, a researcher in the veterinary school, said she will resign in protest at the involvement of the department in the MoD project, and a research assistant is "on the verge" of leaving.

Dr Mayer said yesterday that there was "no guarantee that the MoD would use the research for purely defensive purposes. I do not wish to work in a veterinary school where the principle of animal welfare is a spin-off of other research."

The £230,000 MoD grant, which is due to be taken up at the end of the

year, will finance experiments in which the researchers claim "nice are put into cages and sprayed with the bacteria under a variety of conditions".

Experts say that the only defensive purpose to such research could be to develop protective clothing for troops, but scientists already know the size of bacteria or viruses required to design such clothing.

However a spokesman for the veterinary school said that the research could lead to valuable information on how airborne diseases like *Legionella* spread.

"The MoD are interested because they want to know how to control and measure the levels of disease in the air if this country is attacked".

Sir John Kingman, vice-chancellor of Bristol University, said he "did not much mind what the MoD's reasons

for funding the research were as long as the work would be important for basic science and have humane applications.

"The staff who wish to resign are over-reacting; if they wish to change the way the university deals with these matters they should do so through the Senate."

An MoD spokesman said it had been Britain's policy since the 1950s not to produce or stockpile chemical or biological weapons. He confirmed that the MoD was negotiating with Bristol for a research contract but refused to give details.

Miss Monica Hicks, of the Association of University Teachers said it had a policy of discouraging members from getting involved in research leading to "methods of mass destruction" and would defend the Bristol academics "up to the hilt".

Political sketch

Goliath swaggers to stagger another day

There was once a famous Philistine called Goliath. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of his coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

Your sketchwriter has never been to Gath nor seen Goliath; he does not know whether the Philistine was as imposing as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, nor whether Mr Lawson's constituency of Baby is anything like Gath. But they both had a certain *avouderpols* — and they were both reckoned invincible.

Young David, son of Jesse, herded sheep and goats. It is not known whether Gordon Brown, Labour's teenage Treasury Spokesman, has tried his hand at that. But the Boy David was "a man of valour, a man of war, prudent in speech." So is the Boy Gordon.

There was a hush, as Mr Goliath Lawson swaggered over the horizon, armoured in a skirt of clanking Treasury figure and the breastplate of monetarist dogma. Behind him loomed a howling mob of Philistines.

Facing him stood Gordon, son of Jesse. No support staff of civil-servants for him, no sophisticated new weaponry. Just cloak, sling and "five smooth stones from the brook" (well, a scattering handwritten statistics).

Who would prevail? Armed only with his sling, the Boy Gordon slung well. He quoted all the prophecies the Chancellor had got wrong — the trade deficit, the inflation-rate, interest-rates. He mocked Goliath's dismissal of his problems as a "blip". People no longer asked whether Mr Lawson's policies would succeed. They asked who would succeed Mr Lawson. He teased the Philistine front-bench about Alan Walters, quoting the Professor's expressed disapproval of their Chancellor's policies. Lawson had once said that living at 11 Downing Street, there were "no problems with the neighbours". Alone in Britain, the occupant of Number 10 had the power to evict her neighbours.

Then, impetuously, he refused to take an interruption from Norman Tebbit (for anyone else, for that matter) and got away with it, I suspect, because, earlier, we

had seen what giving way to Tim Yeo (Suffolk S) had brought. In his shepherd's bag, he found a Thatcher quote from the springtime of her optimism: fixed mortgage-rates (which she had once vowed to keep at 9.99%) were splendid because "At least young couples can really budget". This and other stones found their mark. The Boy sat down, if not the undoubtedly future King, then at least a herdsmen to be reckoned with.

Goliath rose. He tried bluster. The speech we had just heard had been little-tattle — the most trivial in years — he spluttered. Our problems were caused by the fact that, such was the faith businessmen placed in him, "confidence moved into overdrive." Or was the word "overdraft"? In either case Mr Lawson's confidence (whether in overdraft or overdraft) overdraft, was based on the expectation that "something was going to turn up".

What did turn up in the Chancellor's speech was something at which all must surely tremble: as sure a sign of a Cabinet in trouble as an official declaration that all is well: the invention of a new statistic. God knows, if experienced Treasury civil-servants can't twist existing statistics to the Government's cause, the Government has problems. "Inflation-minus-the-mortgage-rate" was today's novelty. Believe me, when mortgage reductions act to bring the inflation-rate down, it will be tomorrow's cascade. Remember the tax-and-price-index? No? Precisely!

The Chancellor refused an intervention from Sir Peter Tapsell. And he sat down — well, still Chancellor. In the Authorized Version: "The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground." In yesterday's version, the giant went from swagger to stagger. But he was still on his feet.

"We are on our way" cried Goliath. "To a supply-side miracle." If it was the leaves-and-fishes he was referring to, I must warn him that most of the Word Book lies between Gath and Gath, and the Gadarene Swine behind him are getting impatient.

Matthew Parris

Hume's embryo plea

Continued from page 1
dunes affecting human life and dignity, and the structure of social life.

Professor Edwards said he and his colleagues had pressed for legislation since 1971. He would be happy with a law which permitted experiments on embryos up to the end of the first 14 days, and which allowed exceptions, if a good cause existed, under the control of a regulating body. This would enable research to be done on the early development of the embryonic

heart, which does not begin to develop until after 18 days.

"Pro-life" MPs and peers were angered by the absence of any legislation and are planning to introduce private member's legislation to force the Government's hand.

If a "pro-life" MP fails to come sufficiently high in tomorrow's ballot for this session's Private Members' Bills then the Duke of Norfolk, Britain's leading Catholic layman, intends to introduce a Bill in the House of Lords early next year.

Chancellor survives his Commons ordeal by fire

Continued from page 1
believe that, although Mr Lawson has gained an important parliamentary respite, the Government faces difficult economic times in the winter and spring.

Some felt he had offered a hostage to fortune in declaring: "The slowing down of growth of demand which is required is a simple and straightforward task".

Mr Lawson had earlier suffered another sharp and effective attack from Mr Gordon

Brown, Labour's Treasury spokesman, who said that people were no longer asking if the Chancellor's policies would succeed; they were asking who would succeed the Chancellor.

The Chancellor admitted that he had been wrong in relaxing monetary policy after being convinced by the stock market crash last October that at that point recession was a greater danger than inflation.

He agreed that many Treasury forecasts at the time of

the Budget had been proved wrong. But it was the performance of the economy, not the forecasts which mattered, and Britain had enjoyed five years of almost unparalleled prosperity.

What was wrong with the economy now, said Mr Lawson, was a monetary phenomenon and it would be cured by monetary means. He rejected credit controls as a Socialist dead end.

The current account deficit, said Mr Lawson, would cor-

rect itself. Britain had overseas assets second only to Japan. "The world has confidence in us and sterling is strong."

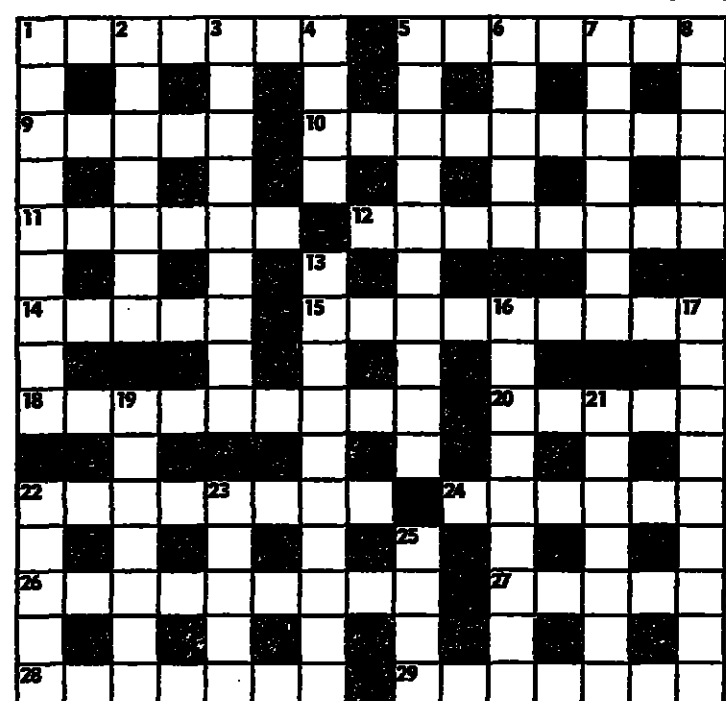
He won a rare cheer from Tory backbenchers, whose support was mostly dutiful, by saying that the Treasury forecast of growth in investment this year was wildly wrong at 6.3 per cent; it now looked as though it would be 12 per cent.

In a bad-tempered debate in which Labour MPs accused the Tory whips of concealing

backbench interruptions designed to put Mr Brown off his stride, Labour's spokesman added further to his reputation as a rising star in a speech in which he warned that Mr Lawson had in Downing Street "the one neighbour in Britain with the power of eviction".

● Inflation rises: Earlier, on the final day of the debate of the Queen's Speech, the Chancellor tacitly admitted that inflation would rise above 7 per cent next year.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,840



- ACROSS**
- Where Perdita was found and Irene Adler caused no scandal after all (7).
 - River transport system, I see, is said to provide material (7).
 - One the king imprisoned is doomed (5).
 - No scurvy fellow, Jack, thanks to this (4-5).
 - Automaton largely responsible for the plant (6).
 - Digs four for a dollar (8).
 - Vessel one found in the old railway (5).
 - Perhaps they included the French and Irish type of ESP (9).
 - English crazy for this form of art (9).
 - Problem for one on a horse (5).
 - This virtue, were the saint right, would have a homely origin (8).
 - Shakespearean constable from the borders (6).
 - Knew a tape needed editing for the old county division (9).
 - Mites just about visible in air turbulence (5).
 - Contract number one returned in hearts? (7).
 - Place available for a tanner on a 14 (3-4).

- DOWN**
- Beauty holds a gun in this musical trifle (9).
 - No good escaping him as his victim on the gallows (7).
 - I am worried about the Speaker's concessions to debtors (9).
 - Chopper takes in money to the centre of revolution (4).
 - Means of concealing face with endless glamour treatment (10).
 - Describing the key he has to the door? (5).
 - Change in a term eschewed by Adamites (7).
 - At which Miranda accused Ferdinand of playing her false (5).
 - Eastern piano artist's variety turn (3-5).
 - Material for dish of French meat the fly maid does not finish (9).
 - Measure that's to the credit of the CID (9).
 - Heavy breather's swindle — theatre cat's taken it in (7).
 - Dishonour? Head of Department agreed to differ (7).
 - Island resort we hear intimidates poor sailors? (5).
 - Party supports fashion of painting in the round (5).
 - This god turned up where East and West meet (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

ST ANDREW'S DAY
By Philip Howard

- FURKING**
a. A Highland wildcat trapper
b. Heeling at the Wall Game
c. Nasty Scottish habits
- CLAMP**
a. To belt up
b. A raw haggis store
c. A cul-de-sac vessel
- MISHANTER**
a. A blue bonnet with tourie
b. A celloid soprano
c. A mishap

Answers on page 22

Solution to Puzzle No 17,839

POSTMEN CALVEAU
YEAH RECAPITULATED
AIDS RECAPITULATED
MERRIMENT JORSO
I C M W S
DRAKE ARCHITECT
SLIPPERIES
ASCOT SCHOOLBOY
JARRI OGLIN
RESPONDER CHINA
ELEVEN EARTHED

WEATHER

North-east Scotland will have a wet day with some heavy rain and snow over mountains. South-east England will also start wet, but steady rain will move away, leaving the whole of the UK with showery weather. Outlook: unsettled with showers in most parts, and temperatures near-normal.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear
Algeria	17-23	SE	1-3	Clear

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear

THE POUND

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52

AM

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear

PM

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear
London	10-12	SE	1-3	Clear

LIGHTING-UP TIME

Area	Time
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am
London	4.26 pm to 7.14 am

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Area	High	Low
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0

NOON TODAY

Area	Temp
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0
London	13.0

YESTERDAY

Area	High	Low
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0
London	13.0	8.0

THE POUND

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52
Australia	1.52	Bank	1.52

Recall Price Index: 1985 (October)
London: The FT index closed up 2.5 at 1454.4.

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1455.4 (+2.5)	US dollar 1.8445 (+0.0105)
FT-SE 100 1786.9 (+5.4)	W German mark 3.1863 (+0.0044)
US\$ (Datastream) 156.76 (-0.13)	Trade-weighted 78.0 (+0.3)

Executive Editor David Brewerton Delay over Clowes

Sir Anthony Browne, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, last night dashed hopes of early compensation for the 18,000 victims of the £190 million Barlow Clowes collapse.

He told an all-party Parliamentary select committee that his investigation into the Department of Trade and Industry's handling of the affair would probably take months, rather than weeks.

"Because of the nature of the investigation it really is impossible to tie myself down to a particular date," Sir Anthony said.

Hambros rise

Hambros lifted pre-tax profits 5 per cent to £38.6 million in the six months to end September. Banking profits fell 11.4 per cent to £17.5 million while non-banking profits rose 23.4 per cent to £27 million. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 3.3p. *Temps, page 26*

Bostrom price

Bostrom, which makes seats for commercial vehicles and is seeking a stock exchange listing, has put a price of 135p on its shares, valuing the company at \$2.5 million, with £1.5 million net of new money being raised.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2100.64 (+19.20)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	2851.63 (+394.96)
Hong Kong		
	Hong Kong	2832.88 (+7.87)
Amsterdam		271.2 (+0.5)
Sydney		1472.0 (-0.1)
Frankfurt		1587.0 (-0.7)
Brussels		3541.9 (-28.8)
Paris		390.5 (-1.8)
Zurich		505.8 (+3.3)
London		
	FT-A All-Share	1455.4 (+2.5)
	FT-100	1786.9 (+5.4)
	FT Gold Mines	181.1 (+1.7)
	FT Food Index	97.21 (+0.07)
	FT Govt Bonds	95.58 (+0.01)
Recent Issues		Page 25
Closing prices		Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
Johnson Fry	187p (+85p)
Compass, A. & J.	400p (+25p)
BPT	400p (+25p)
Great Portland	385p (+15p)
Barton Transport	700p (+25p)
G. Oiler	380p (+15p)
Yorkshire Chem.	254p (+15p)
Prognome	438p (+15p)
Adilion	421p (+10p)
Unilever	365p (+15p)
British Aerospace	437p (+15p)
Elco	227p (+12p)
Brig	300p (+15p)
Booth Inds	130p (+11p)
GT Management	175p (+14p)
BOC	385p (+8p)
Suter	22p (+5p)
FALLS:	
Sotthys	98p (-10p)
Davies & Newman	615p (-15p)
Farage	282p (-10p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	219p
SEAG Volume	409.2n

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate:	13%
3-month interbank:	13 1/2%-13 3/4%
3-month eligible bills:	12 1/2%-12 3/4%
Buying rate:	
US Prime Rate:	10 1/4%
Federal Funds:	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill:	8.00-7.99%
30-year bonds:	8 1/4%-8 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445
£1.8455	\$1.8445

GOLD

London:	New York:
AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10	AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10
AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10	AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10
AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10	AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10
AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10	AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10
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AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10	AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10
AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10	AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10
AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10	AM \$422.10 pm \$422.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) pm \$14.05 (\$14.37)	
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Better than expected results put 25p on Fairline Boats (02888) and 3p on Readicut (01273); comment on figures saw Chamberlain Hill (01693) up 7p and BET (01494) up 4p; properties were firmer on balance with Ham-merson A (02817) gaining 12p while MEPC (01081) found 5p ahead of figures.

● Recent additions include: the Fairley Group (03513); C Church 9.375% (03514); Peachey Property has been deleted.

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Bank steps in to hold back sterling surge

By David Smith and Bailey Morris

The Bank of England intervened to brake a continuing rise in the pound on the foreign exchanges yesterday, as dealers were convinced that worsening inflationary pressures would keep British interest rates high indefinitely.

The Chancellor, Mr. Nigel Lawson, said that a firm exchange rate would be maintained.

Mr. Lawson also tacitly admitted, during the final day of the debate on the Queen's Speech in the Commons, that inflation would peak at more than 7 per cent next year.

He said inflation excluding mortgage payments would reach 5 1/2 per cent in the first half of next year. Analysts said this implied a published inflation rate of around 7 1/2 per cent.

Mr. John Sheppard, economist at Warburg Securities, said that while this was lower than some market estimates, it represented the first admission by the Chancellor that inflation was likely to exceed 7 per cent next year.

The Confederation of British Industry, saying by the latest interest rate and sterling

risks, hit back at suggestions that high wage increases were responsible for rising inflationary pressures.

Mr. John Banham, the CBI director general, said in Cardiff: "The main source of inflationary pressure in the economy is not manufacturing wage increases but lack of capacity, particularly in the motor industry, where major investment is at hand."

"Employers have to pay what is needed to attract and keep people with the skills they need - no more, no less. It is called the market."

The underlying causes of inflation were inadequate skill training, escalating house prices and inadequate investment in plant, equipment and technology, he said.

The pound continued to benefit from the boosting of base rates from 12 to 13 per cent last Friday. It rose by more than a cent to \$1.8455, and closed at DM3.1890, up more than half a penny, after threatening to break through DM3.20.

The pound was quoted at DM3.1884 before the Bank of England stepped in during the morning to restrain it. Treasury officials said that policy would continue to aim at

sterling stability, as measured by the sterling index, and that the index had moved within a range of 74 to 78 for many months. Yesterday it rose by 0.3 points to 78.

However, resistance to any sterling fall may be expected to be stronger than any substantial action to hold it down, particularly as inflationary pressures increase.

Figures released in Washington showed that the US economy grew at a revised annual rate of 2.6 per cent during the third quarter, up from the previous estimate of 2.2 per cent but below market expectations of a strong 2.8 per cent to 3 per cent pace.

Financial markets largely discounted the data, which did not reveal strong inflationary pressure and were considered less influential than the unemployment figures, due out on Friday.

On Wall Street, fears of higher international interest rates remained strong.

Analysts said that if the US unemployment rate remained at the current level of 5.3 per cent or dropped below it, there would be strong pressure on the US Federal Reserve Board to raise the discount rate from its present 6.5 per cent level.

Governor reprimands 'transaction banking'

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, has issued a warning about "transaction banking", which is increasingly becoming the traditional relationship of banks to their customers.

In a speech to the Chartered Institute of Bankers yesterday, he said difficulties could arise when a relationship becomes subordinated to "the deal".

"I believe it is in the banks' own interests to foster and maintain relationships at all levels of their business."

His warning comes at a time of growing concern among commercial customers over the loyalty of their banks.

United Biscuits, for example, has asked Royal Bank of Scotland, its banker, for an undertaking not to support any hostile bid attempts against it.

It was also directed at banks' relationships with their personal customers. New technology is reducing the need for face-to-face contact with customers. This downgrades the traditional disciplines of the lending banker, he said.

By maintaining the traditional relationship, banks would be better able to prevent private customers getting into unmanageable debt.

He urged banks to co-

operate more fully in providing each other with information on customer indebtedness. And he gave a warning that, despite increasing competition, the banks still had an obligation to co-operate on such matters as payments systems to ensure an efficient flow of money.

Mr. David Walker, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, urged bankers to exert influence against protectionist sentiments over financial services in Europe. He said EEC markets would gain strength from being open to foreign firms, just as London's markets had already benefited.

Dawson International beats forecasts with interim £21m

By Martin Waller

Dawson International, the Edinburgh knitwear group which includes brands such as Pringle, Ballantyne and Braemar, surprised the market yesterday with pre-tax profits about £2 million higher than expected.

It made £21.07 million, against £19.04 million, in the six months to end-February. Sales were almost static, up just £2.9 million at £179.8 million, reflecting falling turnover at KSW, the West German hand-knitting subsidiary, which has since been sold.

This disposal led to a £6.9 million loss, partially offset by the proceeds of other sales, resulting in an extraordinary deficit of £5.75 million.

Dawson is paying a 2.65p interim dividend, up from 2.4p.

Mr. Ronald Miller, the chairman, said continuing disruption of cashmere supplies and quality problems

had caused a £1 million loss, while exchange rate movements cost almost £1 million.

The American business was the worst affected, by about £620,000. It had otherwise promised a record performance in the current financial year.

Dawson shares have seen sharp rises in recent months on takeover speculation. The

most recent prospective bidder has been DMC, the French group, although this possibility was dismissed by Mr. Miller, who said the company had detected no untoward movements on its share register.

The company had so far withstood the impact of the latest round of interest rate rises and the firm pound, although this would have an effect in the second half of the financial year.

The only side of the business to see some weakening of demand in past months is the artificial fur business, which supplies the soft toy industry and has been hit by imports from the Far East.

Mr. Miller added that he was confident for the future "even if events over which we have limited control continue to conspire to hold back our results in the short term."

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Ronald Miller: 'no bidders'

US may take a hard line in Montreal

From Bailey Morris
Washington

The United States is prepared to walk away from next week's global trade talks in Montreal without agreements on contentious issues such as agriculture, rather than accept language which fails to advance its goal of opening markets by 1990.

But Mr. Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative, said this could provoke an angry response from Congress and the Administration of President-elect George Bush. Mr. Yeutter and his negotiating team will meet President Reagan and President-elect Bush this week at the White House for a strategy meeting before leaving for the talks.

His remarks contained a veiled reference to the dispute between the US and the European Economic Community over agricultural reforms, which are expected to dominate talks between the

94 nations participating in the new trade round under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Mr. Yeutter said: "The tactical decision I must make is whether the agreed language will advance the cause of a particular group like agriculture and lead to the outcome we seek in 1990, or whether tactically we are better off without agreed language in Montreal. If I decide we are better off without language, we will not agree and we will leave Montreal without a convergence of opinion."

This could lead to protectionist legislation in the new Congress which has indicated the 1989 Farm Bill will be a priority issue.

It could also prompt the Bush administration to act on its threat to negotiate bilateral agreements among "like-minded nations" rather than stick to the post-war multilateral process.

"The leverage that we have is the

uncertainty of our trading partners as to what the US response will be in the absence of an agreed framework in Montreal," Mr. Yeutter said.

Privately, US officials have signalled trade in agriculture, trade in services, including financial services, intellectual property rights and tropical products, an important issue to the developing world, as the four most contentious issues.

The EEC is unlikely to make any significant concessions on agriculture without gaining in areas it considers of vital interest: notably intellectual property rights and trade in services.

According to Mr. Yeutter, none of the difficult issues will be fully resolved in Montreal. The atmosphere going into the talks is tense with US and EEC negotiators operating under the cloud of a bilateral dispute over hormones in meat products - an issue which faces a January 1 deadline and will be discussed at the margins of the Montreal meeting.



Cheered by results: Sir Derrick Holden-Brown after announcing half-time profits of £229 million yesterday

Allied-Lyons 'too rich for Bond'

By Our City Staff

Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of Allied-Lyons, the £3.4 billion food and drinks group, believes Mr. Alan Bond, the Australian businessman, would like to launch a takeover bid for the business - if he could afford it.

Sir Derrick said yesterday: "It is obvious that if the Bond Corporation had the resources we would be one of their objectives. But I don't think they have the resources."

The Allied-Lyons chief said he had no idea what Mr. Bond, who has built up a 10.8 per cent stake in the company, would do next. But he made it

clear that if Allied-Lyons faced a bid it would not expect to be rescued by having it referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

"That would certainly not be our strategy at all. We would rely on our trading performance to be the basis for shareholders to judge who is best suited to run the business."

Sir Derrick, who was reporting a sharp increase in half-yearly profits for the group, disclosed that discussions with Bond Corp to set up a joint venture operation to sell Swan Light and Castlemaine XXXX had ended. "We had

different ideas of how we should do it," he said, although it is understood that problems arose over how quickly the business should be expanded in Europe.

Allied-Lyons said it had no plans to write back goodwill into the balance sheet. During the past 10 years about £1 billion of goodwill had been written off.

Allied-Lyons reported pre-tax profits of £229 million, up 16.2 per cent for the first half. This was in line with predictions by analysts, who are now looking for about £500 million for the full year.

The company made it clear

it was not unduly worried by the Monopolies Commission's investigation into tied houses.

"It is difficult to imagine that the Monopolies Commission would recommend a draconian decision such as divesting pubs from breweries," Sir Derrick said.

However, the company did not rule out appealing to the European Commission as a last resort if swingeing measures were introduced.

Allied-Lyons shareholders will collect an interim dividend of 5p a share, a rise of 14.9 per cent.

Temps, page 26

Oil output momentum hits prices

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

World oil prices started to drift slowly downward yesterday, as it emerged that the latest Opec production agreement will not start to affect supplies until mid-January.

In London, the Brent price dropped 35 cents to \$14.30 a barrel in light trading.

"Everyone is waiting to hear what the oil ministers say about the agreement, once they return to their home ground," said one trader.

"The unity expressed in Vienna could be very fragile."

It has already emerged that the five Gulf states, who produce almost three-quarters of Opec output, are planning to keep production up throughout December.

The new agreement on output does not come into effect until January 1.

Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have made it clear that the customers they have won during the past six months by offering discounts and prices well below the Opec reference price will be kept.

Kuwait has said that most of its output for December is already contracted and there will be no dramatic slowdown in production.

Saudi Arabia has confirmed that ten ULCCs - ultra-large crude carriers - it has chartered for loading at the end of December will be arriving in the Gulf soon.

Saudi output during December will be more than its new Opec quota.

Oil traders anticipate it will be mid-January before Saudi production falls to the new level.

Swedes claim quick victory in £54m battle for Redfearn

By Cliff Fetham

PLM, the Swedish packaging group, last night claimed victory in its £54 million takeover bid for Redfearn, Britain's third largest glass bottle manufacturer.

PLM won its 545p-a-share cash bid at the first closing date, which is almost unknown. Most shareholders wait for a bidder to increase its initial terms.

But PLM, which had bought a 29 per cent stake from OVS Investment, the Australian

group, as a platform to launch its bid, won easily when Redfearn's former chairman, Mr. John Pratt, who resigned in March, pledged family holdings of about 10 per cent.

Several institutions also decided to sell out, enabling PLM to announce acceptances of 51.5 per cent.

Mr. Nicholas Fry of SG Warburg, PLM's adviser, said: "It is the quickest end to a contested bid that I can remember. In today's stock mar-

ket conditions a cash bid is more attractive so that is why there were probably more acceptances from institutions than you would normally expect at this stage of a bid."

Mr. David Newbigging, Redfearn's chairman, said: "There was always a possibility that Mr. Pratt's family would accept the offer. The only surprise is that they have done so very early on. But I am quite satisfied with the defence we put up."



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FINANCIAL PLANNING & INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bemrose rejigs US side and makes £7.1m buy

Bemrose Corporation, the specialist and security printing group, is paying £7.1 million for a small regional printer, Henry Booth (Hall), as well as restructuring its US operations. The vendors of Booth will receive £2.35 million in cash and 2.2 million new Bemrose shares, 870,000 of which are already conditionally placed. Booth shareholders have also received total dividend payments of £1 million.

Bemrose is selling its wholly-owned Bemrose US subsidiary, BUSA, which supplies advertising and promotional material, to its 50 per cent-owned associate, Bemrose Yattendon. The initial payment puts a value of \$14 million (£7.6 million) on BUSA, in the form of \$11 million in new BY shares and \$3 million cash. Further additional payment of up to \$1.7 million may become due, and on completion BY will repay to Bemrose \$4.625 million in loan notes.

Savage Group moves ahead Low incentive from tax cuts

Savage Group, a leading supplier to do-it-yourself stores, is trading substantially ahead five months into its new financial year. Mr Nick Savage, chairman of the USM-quoted group, told the company's annual meeting that sales had shown the same resilience as in earlier periods of slower economic growth.

Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests much of the rise in the proportion of tax paid by Britain's richest 5 per cent is not all due to the incentive of lower marginal tax rates. Growing unemployment reduced the proportion paid by the poor, while contributions from unearned income lifted taxes for the rich.

TMD boosts payout

TMD Advertising Holdings, the only quoted media space buyer, raised its pre-tax profits by 38 per cent to £1.22 million in the year to end-August. The year's dividend is raised from 2.4p to 3p. TMD said the figures contained only a "relatively small amount" from the year's two acquisitions, the 49 per cent stake in Horizons Media Group and TMD Manchester.

Mr David Reich, the chairman, said the group is in good shape to capitalize on developments, such as the Government's White Paper on the future of broadcasting and Saatchi & Saatchi's decision to centralize all its media buying.

Cadbury lifts Australia bid BHH sale nets further £7.3m

Cadbury Schweppes has increased its offer for the shares it does not own in its offshoot, Cadbury Schweppes Australia. The new shares and cash offer values the company's outstanding shares at Aus\$93 million (£44 million). Cadbury's bid has already been approved by the Australian government.

BHH, the former Berkeley and Hay Hill Investments, is to sell a residential site for £7.3 million, bringing proceeds of house-building division sales to £21 million. The remaining house-building sites will be sold and the board believes it will raise a total of more than £25 million for the house-building division.

Chamberlain at £3.9m

Chamberlain Phipps, the shoe components group gradually being made into a specialist chemicals operation, managed a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.90 million in the six months to end-September. The biggest operating profits increase, of 19 per cent, came from Chamtek, the chemicals division, Mr David Chamberlain, the chairman, said.

Its core shoe parts division registered an 8 per cent increase. The company has applied to the Stock Exchange for relisting in the chemicals sector. The half-way dividend is up from 1.4p to 1.6p.

Housing shadow overhangs Hambros

A year ago, Hambros was sitting pretty as rival banks, encumbered with big securities operations, ran into trouble after the crash. But trouble comes to everyone eventually, and Hambros' estate agency operations now look equally vulnerable.

The 51 per cent-owned agency chain has benefited from the summer rush to buy before dual tax relief ended, while the gloomier housing market picture since then does not come into the results. Its profit increase from £10.7 million to £14.2 million pre-tax is, therefore, little surprise, though the second half of this year and the first half of next will not look so good.

Everything now depends on how turnover volume in the housing market holds up. Hambros dismisses theories of a dramatic fall in house prices; it is more likely that prices and turnover will level off. The housing market can be resilient. Turnover rose faster in 1985, with 14 per cent mortgage rates, than at any other time this decade.

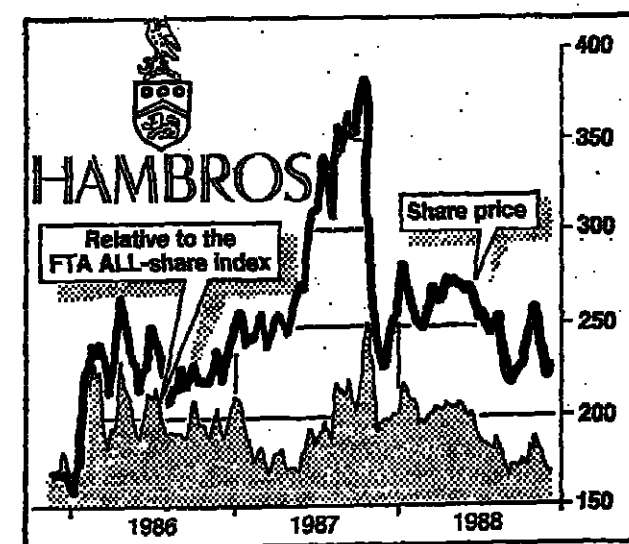
Assuming lower volumes continue, however, there are two ways Hambros can combat the effects on its profits. One is to cut costs, and reductions in staff are already under way. The other is to increase the sales of other financial services, particularly the insurance-related products of Hambros Guardian Assurance, its new subsidiary. The

Dawson Int

Never mind about the threat from imported knitwear — the great British teddy bear industry is the latest to be attacked from the Far East.

So claims Mr Ronald Miller, chairman of Dawson International, the knitwear group, in a broadside against high interest rates, high sterling and their combined effect on companies which rely on exports.

Dawson came in with pre-



tax profits up almost 11 per cent to £21.07 million, confounding those market forecasters who were looking for little change.

But the analysts' response was, in some cases, to downgrade their expectations for the full year by £1 million or so while they waited to see the effect on volumes of a price rise of almost 50 per cent over 12 months for Dawson's cashmere range.

The group's last set of figures, for the 1987-88 financial year, were the first to feature problems in the supply and quality of cashmere caused by political changes in China, which cost it £2 million. These changes continued into this year at much the

same rate, as did adverse exchange rates which cost nearly £1 million pre-tax.

Meanwhile, the artificial fabrics business, previously an impressive performer in its supplies to the British toy industry, ran into heavy competition from cheap imports from Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Dawson still has much to commend it. A recent recruit to the board to run its cashmere and knitwear operations — the biggest division — is Mr Martin Watts, former lieutenant of Sir Phil Harris and, before that, the man who built up the Olympus sportswear brands.

At the time of the most recent — and now largely

discounted — bid speculation, analysts were putting a value on Dawson's brands which suggested a bid at 250p. But those slimmed-down, full-year forecasts suggest the group will have to move quickly to produce £50 million pre-tax at the year-end. This would mean the shares, at 197p, value the group at a fair nine times earnings.

At this level, with a prospective 5.8 per cent yield, they rate a solid hold in a difficult sector.

Allied-Lyons

Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of Allied-Lyons, made it clear yesterday that there will be no need for the Monopolies Commission to bail him out of trouble if Mr Alan Bond decides to launch a takeover bid.

The predatory Australian-owned just under 11 per cent of Allied-Lyons and he would dearly love to launch a bid — if only he could afford it. Sir Derrick does not think Mr Bond could pay a sufficient premium for Allied and, given the sort of trading performance Allied-Lyons is putting up, he is probably right.

Yesterday the company turned in pre-tax profits for the first half of £229 million, a rise of 16.2 per cent. Earnings per share were up 19.3 per cent at 19.8p. There was a suspicion that Allied-Lyons was giving the stock market just

what it had expected and that it had an awful lot left in its war chest, just in case Mr Bond decides on an outbreak of hostilities.

There was a solid, if unspectacular, performance across the board. The newly merged Hiram Walker-Allied Vintners wines and spirits operation pushed profits up by 8.8 per cent to £12.3 million after an exceptionally strong first half last year. The new joint venture with Suntory of Japan looks a good deal and could even lead to further food agreements.

The beers and retailing division raised profits by 15.6 per cent to £111 million with market share edging up to about 14 per cent. Lager now accounts for 54 per cent of output, with heavy emphasis on the potential for low alcohol products. Promotional costs are high, but Allied feels it is a market it cannot afford to neglect.

The food operation produced an 11.6 per cent increase in profits to £48 million.

The group's gearing should be below 50 per cent by the end of the year, when it should be reporting comfortably more than £500 million profits for the first time. As consumer spending begins to come under pressure from higher interest rates, Allied-Lyons at 465p — about 10.5 times earnings — looks one of the better defensive stocks.

Robertson slips to an interim £2.56m

By Our City Staff

Interim pre-tax profits at Robertson Group, the geological services and energy consultancy group, fell to £2.56 million from £3.16 million, on turnover up 32 per cent to £19.87 million.

Earnings per share fell to 5.1p from 6.9p. There is a dividend for the first six months to end-September of 1.1p (0.9p).

Mr Lionel Cook, the chairman, said all divisions are currently trading satisfactorily and the second half will benefit from contributions by recent acquisitions.

In minerals and water the

board said profitability was disappointing, mainly due to the deferral of prospective contracts and a number of unexpected operational difficulties. Cartography and publishing was disappointing due to delays in production.

The group added a 3.6 per cent interest in Anglesey Mining, with a value of about £640,000, to its portfolio of mineral properties where the capital employed is now about £4.5 million. It is anticipated that the division will continue to develop and produce profits for the group in the short and medium term.

Nearly 500 thrifts could be hit by tighter rules on capital base

From Bailey Morris Washington

US regulators began to tighten the net this week around hard-pressed savings and loan associations which are presenting a formidable obstacle to the plans of President-elect George Bush to cut the budget deficit by \$40 billion (£21.7 billion) in the 1990 fiscal year.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board, chaired by Mr Danny Wall, supervises the savings and loans, or "thrifts", which are roughly equivalent to building societies in Britain. The board took the lead on Monday when it proposed sweeping rules to strengthen the capital base of ailing institutions.

Under its plan to increase capital to an average of 8 per cent of assets by 1993, the majority of the 500 insolvent associations would be required to merge or go out of business, officials said.

Next in line is the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures savings in commercial banks. It also planned new rules this week to guarantee the safety of deposits but possibly at a lower level than has been in effect since 1984 whereby depositors receive 100 per cent of their money back on 99 per cent of their deposits in bankrupt institutions.

The US Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget, at the behest of President-elect Bush, are also working on emergency solutions to



Brady: low-cost solution



Wall: mergers or failures

the \$60 billion to \$100 billion crisis in the savings and loan industry but their programmes are not expected to be ready until early next year.

It is generally thought that the new Bush Administration, in collaboration with the democratic-controlled Congress, must produce in early 1989 a programme to bail out the bankrupt Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) which insures deposits.

But the cost of the anticipated bail-out is rising at an estimated \$1 billion a month as the losses in insolvent institutions, which comprise one-third of the total, escalate. Officials of the US General Accounting Office estimated that the cost to the US Treasury of bailing out the insolvent associations could add as much as \$10 billion to the projected \$133 billion

deficit in the 1990 fiscal year.

Mr Nicholas Brady, the Treasury Secretary, who has agreed to stay on in the Bush Administration, has indicated that the US government will attempt to find ways of dealing with the problem which will not add greatly to the federal deficit.

This would suggest a Treasury programme to stretch out the cost, possibly through the issue of special off-budget bonds similar to the ones used by the government to bail out the ailing Farm Credit System.

But this scheme would add greatly to the cost, even though it would bypass next year's budget, because interest rates on these bonds would be much higher than those on regular US Treasury bonds.

Another widely disseminated proposal would merge the bankrupt FSLIC into the

much healthier Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Critics fear that this would only weaken the bank fund, leaving the entire financial system vulnerable to a sudden shock.

The big unanswered question is who will ultimately pay the cost of shoring up an industry which ran amok following the deregulation programme of the 1980s which led many associations to invest in high-risk schemes which turned quickly into bad loans.

Most analysts believe that US taxpayers, banks and the healthy savings associations will be asked to pay for the mistakes of the ailing institutions in an exercise that will severely test the will of Congress.

The stormy debate will almost certainly touch on another sensitive issue — as the industry continues to consolidate, how much of a deposit guarantee should the government provide? There are numerous proposals to cut the ceiling from the prevailing rate of up to \$100,000.

Critics of the present system say deposit insurance is to protect small depositors, not wealthy individuals and money managers. Up to eight years ago, deposit insurance only covered amounts up to \$40,000. Some members of the Senate Banking Committee have proposed legislation to lower the ceiling to \$30,000 and some industry analysts suggest cutting it to \$25,000.

"These good results owe much to the success of our established brands."

Derrick Holden-Brown
(Extracts from the Chairman's Interim Report to Shareholders)

Pre-Tax Profit		Earnings per Share		Dividends per Share	
1988/9	1987/8	1988/9	1987/8	1988/9	1987/8
£229m	£197m	19.8p	16.6p	5.00p	4.35p
Up 16.2%		Up 19.3%		Up 14.9%	

28 weeks to 17th September 1988

"All three divisions made good progress. In the beer division, low cost production, major brands and considerable success in retailing all contributed to strong profits growth."

Hiram Walker-Allied Vintners, which increased profits from an exceptionally strong first half last year, benefited from its increasingly complete integration and its brand performance was good.

Results from the food division benefited as before from success in the marketplace backed by efficient production"

ALLIED-LYONS

Elders to buy back HK arm

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Mr John Elliott, the chairman of Elders IXL, yesterday announced its intention to buy out the minority holders of Elders Investments, the Hong Kong-listed investment vehicle. Elders, which has 75 per cent of Elders Investments, is offering US\$3.30 (£1.79) for each share it does not already own, and 20 cents for each warrant.

Trading in the shares was suspended in Hong Kong and Australia, and Mr Elliott told the company's annual meeting in Hong Kong that he considered the shares would continue to trade at a discount to net assets.

"Continuing with a 25 per cent minority is unsatisfactory, as Elders Investments cannot act independently of Elders IXL," he said.

The shares were floated at US\$3.30 a share, but were trading before yesterday's suspension at HK\$17.40 (£1.21). The low price prevented Mr Elliott from carrying out his plan to reduce Elders' holding to 49 per cent. Details of the offer will be released in the next three weeks and shareholders may take the cash in Hong Kong, Australia or US dollars.

"Elders remains committed to Hong Kong as the centre of its activities in Asia," Mr Elliott added. "The group's presence will continue to grow through our finance, brewing and agribusiness operations." Elders Investments made an after-tax loss of US\$9.2 million for the 13 months ended June 30.

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London W1V 9FS

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London WC1A 2RA

Ramsey Crookall & Co.
25 Athol Street
Douglas
Isle of Man

30th November 1988

LIT expands with £24.5m agreed bid for Johnson Fry

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

LIT Holdings, the finance and options broker, is strengthening its personal finance and corporate service operations with an agreed £24.5 million bid for Johnson Fry, the USM-quoted financial services group.

Johnson Fry, under the leadership of Mr Charles Fry, the founder and chairman, has established itself as a leading sponsor of business expansion schemes. It also offers private clients a comprehensive financial services package and handles the corporate affairs

of about 75 companies, holding stakes in many of them.

LIT is offering 78 ordinary shares, plus £60.19 in cash, for every 100 shares in Johnson Fry. The deal values each Johnson Fry share at 178p. News of the deal saw Johnson Fry shares jump 65p to 167p, while shares of fully-quoted LIT slipped 6p to 155p.

To help finance the deal, LIT is issuing an extra 10.77 million new shares, amounting to 22.8 per cent of the enlarged share capital. But Mr Michael Middlemas, chief executive of LIT, does not

expect the deal to dilute earnings. He is looking for strong profits growth from Johnson Fry. For the year to end-October, the group made pre-tax profits of £2.4 million. This time, it is on target for at least £4 million.

Mr Middlemas said Johnson Fry had established a well-regarded position for itself in the corporate finance market. "It's a company with growing potential. With the help and expertise we have to offer, it has the makings of a very good company."

Mr Fry and several of his

directors, accounting for 53 per cent of the equity, have already given irrevocable undertakings. Mr Fry will own about 8 per cent of the enlarged LIT.

Johnson Fry has more than £70 million under management, and last year earned £900,000 in fees acting as a corporate adviser. Mr Middlemas said it will fit in nicely with Levitt Group, the personal finance and fund management specialist in which LIT has a 25 per cent stake and an option for another 5 per cent.

Caledonia dividend 40% ahead

Caledonia Investments, the Cayzer family investment group, has raised its interim dividend by 40 per cent from 2.5p to 3.5p per share.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September more than doubled from £5.4 million to £12.2 million, mainly due to the £37 million short-term redeemable preference shares received for its stake in British & Commonwealth.

Caledonia will reinvest the proceeds of the preference shares, redeemable in annual instalments to the end of 1991, to build a diversified holding company, aimed at long-term growth.

Bett increase

Bett Brothers, the Dundee building and property developer, showed a 42 per cent jump in pre-tax profits for the year to end-August to £1.52 million (£1.07 million), on turnover of £19.77 million (£15.91 million). Earnings per share rose by 44 per cent to 6.23p (4.34p). A final 2.45p dividend made 3.85p (3.5p) for the year.

In the black

Warringtons, the Wirral, Merseyside, property company, is in profit for the first time since 1983. The company made £630,000 pre-tax in the nine months to September 30, compared with a loss of £1.54 million in the year to December 1987. Earnings per share are 1.6p and the dividend is 1p. None was paid last year.

£1m topped

London Securities, the property and investment group, reported interim pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September of £637,000 to £1.13 million. Earnings per share were 1.9p (1.2p). No interim dividend will be paid.

Float plan

Embassy Property Group, the commercial and residential property developer, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market with a value of £14.5 million. A total of 34.4 per cent of the shares are being placed at a price of 190p each.

Aberdeen up

Aberdeen Steak Houses raised pre-tax profits £225,000 to £402,000 in the half-year to end-June. The half-time dividend is 0.75p. Last year, a 1.5p total was paid.

Croxtan move

Croxtan Garry, the industrial minerals manufacturer of Dorking, Surrey, is to merge with the industrial minerals division of Blue Circle.

COMMENT

No quick profits to be had from Steel appeal

What looked like one of the easiest investment decisions of a difficult year has been made decidedly tricky by the turbulence in the market after Chancellor Lawson's surprise package of trade figures. British Steel, billed as the warm-up act for the main attractions - water and electricity - was priced to appeal to a dull market, rather than a falling market. And after last week's excitement, a dull market looks like being with us for some time.

There is no shortage of institutional funds available for Steel shares. The company will become, in one bound, the largest market capitalization in the metals sector and will be a must for the index-linked funds, beloved of investment managers who like others to take their decisions (and their risks) for them. It is estimated that the pensions industry alone is sitting on liquidity amounting to more than a whole year's cash flow, and the pension funds will either buy Steel in the subscription, or hope to pick up stock in underwriting. One thing they cannot afford, over the medium term, is to be out of Steel.

The private investor has a much more difficult choice. Those who planned to tag the issue, selling their allocation immediately, must think again. The market seems to have stabilized, but is far too uncertain to guarantee the 10p to 15p premium required to cover dealing costs and bank interest. The stags should stay their hands, and not be tempted. There is still a chance of a reasonable premium, but the risk/reward ratio is wrong. There are more certain ways of turning a profit.

Those investors who intended buying Steel as a genuine investment have

much more going for them. The issue is cheap, compared with overseas steel companies. The price/earnings ratio is 4.85 times, while the annualized gross yield at the full 125p price is an attractive 8 per cent. In the short run, the yield on the initial 60p instalment is 11.1 per cent, equal to an annualized 14.8 per cent. Even with base rates at 13 per cent, it is hard to do better.

The high yield does, however, reflect the risk. Steel is not a comfortable monopoly like British Gas, but a European player selling a commodity which, like chemicals, is effectively priced in marks. Sterling against the mark has been a one-way street since the summer, and this will be squeezing Steel's margins and, at the very least, absorbing the financial benefits of some of the productivity gains.

It also has to be remembered that steel is a cyclical business, and there is every indication that it is near the top of the cycle. Profits could go flat or into reverse: they could even disappear. However, the prospectus has met this problem half-way by virtually promising that dividends will be maintained in the face of volatile profits.

Those who had decided to invest in Steel need not change their minds because of the market's short-term gyrations. The shares are cheap and the yield is attractive. But they should realize that they may see little performance from their shares for a year or even two, and that if they are likely to need to sell at short notice, they should leave their money in the building society.

Plessey builds its defences

As Plessey's Sir John Clark and his defence committee headed by Stephen Walls, the managing director, wait for the GEC-Siemens offer document, they have been drawing up a list of defensive options which is now running to more than two sheets of closely-typed paper.

Plessey has realized it must concentrate on maximizing return for shareholders fast. That means the possible sale of parts of Plessey - or, indeed, the whole of it if a white knight should emerge - is high on the list of options, including the possible sale of Plessey's half share in GPT, the joint Plessey-GEC telecommunications company.

At this early stage in the bid battle, Mr Walls is playing the cards close to his chest, but the GPT arrangements allow Plessey to find a buyer for its half share, leaving GEC the option of matching the price.

Plessey has been disappointed with the first profits from GPT shown in its interim results earlier this month - its

share of operating profit was £20.4 million. Deliveries have also been lower than Plessey hoped. Clearly, a bigger contribution would have helped Plessey to put the best face on its prospects, although the interims showed operating profits up virtually one-quarter.

However, Mr Walls praises the GEC input into GPT, saying that there has been a smooth start to the joint venture. He is also quick to point out that there is a strong order book.

Collaborative deals on telecommunications elsewhere have been explored, and will continue to be investigated, although the GPT team is clearly busy at the moment with more immediate problems of transition.

Mr Walls, who is now spending all his time in the defence committee, says Plessey is already talking with the Pentagon and European concerns about defence implications of the new bid, just in case the bid is not referred to the Monopolies Commission in Britain. Plessey's defence committee looks like having a busy Christmas.

Wassall in £8m offer for Hille

By Martin Waller

Hille Ergonom, the office furniture group which joined the USM in 1986, has agreed to a takeover by Wassall which values the company at just under £8 million.

Wassall, an acquisitive mini-conglomerate, is run by former Hanson managers.

The deal is accompanied by figures for the six months to end-September, showing Hille pre-tax profits more than halved to £70,000 from £156,000. The company blames a loss in one manufacturing subsidiary.

Since its debut, Hille has had a difficult ride on the USM, suffering from the strength of the West German and Italian currencies. It imports many of its products from these countries.

The shares made their debut at 92p. They were suspended at 52p this week, returning to trade at 71p on the bid news. Wassall is offering of its shares for every three Hille shares, equivalent to 70p each, with a 72p cash alternative or 75p in loan notes.

Mr Anthony White, Hille's chairman, and Mr William Hall, the managing director, are staying with the group and have accepted the offer in respect of their 75 per cent stakes. The combined group will have sales of more than £25 million a year.

Wassall was a Midlands shoe retailer when Mr Christopher Miller and Mr Philip Turner, two former Hanson executives, joined in August. Their first deal was the £11 million purchase of two office furniture companies, Everaunt and Toone, from Harris & Sheldon.

Readicut rises to £6.67m



Searching for the right acquisitions: Professor Roland Smith, the chairman (centre), Alan Dodman, (right) and Clive Shaw, the managing director, after yesterday's announcement. Readicut International, the carpets and textiles group where Professor Roland Smith is chairman, raised its pre-tax profits by 28 per cent to £6.67 million in the six months to end-September. Sales rose 18 per cent to £96.2 million.

Mr Alan Dodman, the deputy chairman, said the rise marked an organic growth rate of 20 per cent after stripping out the acquisitions in the second half of last year. This is reflected in an earnings per share growth of 23 per cent

to 3.2p. The half-way dividend is up from 0.38p to 0.57p, in part to adjust the balance between the interim and final payment.

Mr Dodman said all sectors of the group are trading well and contributed to the profits growth.

He added: "We're still looking for the right acquisitions in carpet textiles, yarns and light engineering and we could find any reasonable acquisitions we make."

Premier to expand its exploration projects

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Premier Consolidated, one of Britain's remaining independent oil companies, is taking advantage of the depressed price in the oil rig chartering market to step up its exploration programme - in the North Sea, onshore in Britain, and in Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

Premier yesterday reported net profits of £8.1 million for the half year, compared with £6 million in the same period

Profits surge at Fairline

The strength of the British economy pushed pre-tax profits at Fairline Boats, the luxury launch builder, 50 per cent higher to £3.63 million, on sales 44 per cent ahead at £25.37 million, in the year to end-September.

Sales in the first two months of this financial year are ahead, the company says. A final dividend of 9.5p raises the total payment by 50 per cent to 15.5p. Low tax changes mean earnings per share advanced even faster than pre-tax profits, up 81 per cent to 73.3p.

Horrocks takes the helm at Chloride

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Ray Horrocks, the former head of Austin Rover, is the new chairman of Chloride, the batteries and power supplies group, following the retirement earlier this week of Sir Michael Edwards.

Mr Horrocks has been a non-executive director of Chloride since October 1986.

The announcement coincided with the release of Chloride's interim results, which were better than the City expected. Pre-tax profits were £7.7 million, against £6.2

million last time, on a turnover of £155.9 million (£135.7 million). Some analysts believe Chloride may now reach £25 million pre-tax in the full year.

The interim dividend will be 0.55p, against 0.5p, and earnings per share are 1.2p (1p).

Changes are planned for Chloride's automotive battery operations in the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe. Chloride says it is talking to a number of outside

parties with a view to joint ventures or even outright sale.

The group's Exide batteries, made at Dagenham, Essex, are distributed in the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries as well as Britain.

Losses incurred by the European automotive battery operation, which accounts for about 13 per cent of Chloride's turnover, were mainly the cause of Chloride's troubles over the past few years. But Mr Peter Reingier, the group finance director, said the

losses have now been halved, and the division might move into profit next year.

Chloride's main targets now are growth sectors, such as standby batteries for computer installations. Acquisitions in this sector have given the group an entry into the United States market.

In the first half there was a contribution of £800,000 from recent acquisitions, including Powerline, Silatron, Exide Lifeguard and Alus Corporation.

New man flying in at BA

British Airways has once again gone outside the aviation industry to staff its top echelons. The "world's favourite airline" yesterday revealed its replacement for Gordon Dunlop, the finance director who announced his impending retirement from the group last September. Dunlop will leave on New Year's Eve, although he will remain a non-executive director until the end of next March. He is to be replaced by Derek Stevens, aged 50, top finance man at the TSB group since 1981, who takes the title of chief financial officer on February 1. Stevens will also join the BA board. Educated at the Stationers' Company School in London, he graduated from the London School of Economics and studied at the University of California in Berkeley. He spent three years in the mid-1960s at Shell and went on to PA Management Consultants, which he left in 1971 to join UDT Industries, where he became finance director five years later. Stevens has a reputation among City analysts for giving them a headache when TSB results are announced, because the group has been in a constant state of accounting flux since its flotation. His resignation from TSB is the second at a senior level since the appointment of Sir Nicholas Goodison as chairman - he takes up the reins in the New Year. David Davies, head of Hill Samuel, also recently left the board.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A must for Cowie fans

Memo to Father Christmas: please do not bring me a copy of a slim, coffee-table volume entitled *The Tom Cowie Story*. Not only is it the supposedly "remarkable story of the growth of a business from a second-hand motor-bike shop to the largest car dealer in Britain and one of the top 500 quoted companies", but, according to the introduction,

the head office of T Cowie remains in the Sunderland back street where the business was founded. With almost every one of the 75 pages carrying either a picture of Tom, aged 65 and a dead ringer for *The Avengers'* Patrick Macnee, or a mention of his name, I think I now know more than enough about this particular remarkable story.

Bag ladies

As Picasso's £21 million picture, *Acrobat and Young Harlequin* goes off to Tokyo, I am reminded that Mitsukoshi, the department store which bought the painting on behalf of a customer, has another claim to fame. It is the only

place in Tokyo with a corner devoted to merchandise from Harrods. The best-seller is a vinyl carrier bag in the Brompton Road shop's livery. It is apparently considered the ultimate in chic to be seen with one, and Mitsukoshi sells about 6,500 a month, with small ones going for £7 and large ones for £11.

Festive reason

There is nothing unusual in firms holding their Christmas parties either well before or long after December 25. But International Communication and Data, the magazine group formerly known as Publishing Holdings, which announced its interim results yesterday, had an additional reason to hold its 1988 thrash last Friday, November 25, in an Irish bar in London's Islington. In a diary distributed to their clients at the beginning of the year, that date was shown as being Christmas Day.



Thinking small

The City job merry-go-round continues to revolve, with the departure of Tony Marshall and John Purcell from Prudential-Bache, where they have been running the US equities trading operation for the past eight years. They started work this week at Madoff Securities, a specialist house with its headquarters in New York. Madoff, which is ranked at the bottom end of the *Fortune* list of 100 top securities houses, has been in London for four years. The two men have worked as a team of market-makers since 1971, initially at Stocken & Concanon, which later merged with Akrolys. In 1976 Marshall joined Burns Fry, the Canadian house, and Purcell teamed up with him there in 1978. After moving to Prudential-Bache in 1980 they watched it grow from a 60-strong operation to one employing 860 staff. "We really prefer to work in smaller groups so we decided to come here," Marshall said yesterday. "There are only nine of us, as most of the business is settled in New York." Their plan is to build up their European client list, which currently concentrates on Swiss and German banks and institutions.

Eight London electricals analysts went to northern Italy last week, to view Zanussi's operations. At one of the factories, near Treviso, they were shown a dishwasher which deals with 9,000 plates an hour. "I know Italians go in for large families, said one analyst, "but this is ridiculous."

Rosemary Unsworth

DIAMOND SERVICE

TEN JETS A DAY BETWEEN HEATHROW AND LIVERPOOL? IT HAS TO BE DIAMOND SERVICE.

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And because each flight is Diamond Service, everyone gets the full Business Class treatment, with superb food and drinks, compliments of BM.

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HEATHROW - LIVERPOOL • LIVERPOOL - HEATHROW			
08.30	09.20	07.05	07.55
11.30	1.20	10.10	11.00
14.15	15.05	12.50	13.40
17.00	17.50	15.40	16.30
20.00	20.50	18.40	19.30

*Mondays depart 06.45 arrive 07.25. For further information ask your travel agent or call: 01-589 5599 or 051-494 0200.



BRITISH MIDLAND

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

هكذا امن الخليل

BRITISH AIRWAYS

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Cartels last stand against EEC law

In what may be the last desperate attempt to cling to the old protectionist cartel among European scheduled airlines, Italy is refusing permission for British Airways and Aer Lingus to pick up passengers in Milan and fly them across the French border to Lyons, writes *Harvey Elliott*.

Both carriers have been given permission from their governments to operate the service which, they claim, is allowed under EEC legislation and became law at the beginning of this year.

Now the EEC is to take the Italians to court to test the legality of the ban.

Until the case is heard, or the Italians give in, no one will know to what extent European air services can be set free from the maze of long-standing agreements designed to protect national airlines from outside competition.

If approval is given, Europe could be on the brink of the biggest revolution in air travel since a

British airline began the world's first international scheduled air service in 1919.

The idea is simple: airlines say those in favour of competition in Europe should be able to fly where they like, when they like and charge what they like. Some move has already been made towards the ultimate goal which means that BA is able, if it wishes, to fly between any city within Europe, provided one of the sectors includes a stop at a regional airport rather than in a capital city.

It is a radical proposal which critics regard as dangerous and which, in the end, could prove anti-competitive.

Of the major European "flag-carriers" only Swissair and BA are fully privately owned. The others all have some degree of state control or are owned wholly by the national governments. They argue that it is essential to protect their own national identity; to be able to offer a regular service for their citizens on routes which other

Italy is fighting a last ditch attempt to protect national airlines. If it loses, a new airline revolution could start

foreign airlines would not regard as profitable. Most of all, perhaps, they fear that such an "open skies" policy would enable the bigger airlines, including the Americans, to dominate Europe and put out of business many of the smaller, less profitable carriers.

By 1992, however, such a policy will be the law provided the necessary legislation is fully implemented, which is already beginning to look doubtful.

So far, ministers have taken a small step towards breaking the cartel among airlines which effectively controlled fares, routes and capacity. They agreed a package of measures which came into being last January enabling basic fares to be introduced between two states, provided at least one does not disagree and provided they are

related to costs. Airlines can also offer a range of cheap fares, under strict conditions, including a Saturday night stay, being booked and paid for in advance, or being sold only to people aged under 25 or over 60.

At the same time the new regulations allow the airline of origin to have 55 per cent of the capacity on a particular route, which will rise to 60 per cent in October next year.

The new regulations are confused and still disappointingly conservative for many airlines, though some have found loopholes which enable them to cut fares in the lucrative Business Class and attract more of the market.

Air Europe, for example, has managed, through the Department of Transport, to negotiate a cut in

its Business Class fare to Paris from £105 to £92. It wanted an even bigger reduction but after months of argument was allowed to cut only £13 from the fare by French authorities who argued that any further reduction would not be related to the cost of operating the service.

Not that cheap fares are unavailable. Almost half the air journeys within Europe are on charter flights which are exempt from the complex mass of intra-European agreements, and even under the existing agreements airlines can offer "deep discount" fares which can be as low as 45 per cent of the standard fare.

It all adds up to confusion for the traveller and the travel agent

who, at any time, may be faced with dozens of available fares on any one route. The airlines are, naturally, anxious to keep their yields as high as possible, arguing that if people are prepared to pay a higher price for a better service they should be able to charge what they like — up as well as down.

Few believe that complete deregulation in Europe will be a good thing. The experience of America, where deregulation led at first to a proliferation of small airlines offering huge reductions and was followed by bankruptcies, takeovers and mergers, is that today there are only a handful of really big carriers and fares are on the way back up again.

Some bilateral agreements, made between individual countries, have, however, produced not only lower fares but a massive increase in travellers.

Since the Amsterdam-London air route was freed in 1983 the number of passengers has risen by 58 per cent and the number of

airlines flying on the route has gone up from three to eight.

The statistics in air travel between Britain and Ireland are even more astonishing. Between 1976 and 1985 when restrictions were tight, the traffic grew by just 6 per cent to reach 850,000. Since then, following Ryanair's success in forcing a more liberal attitude to both fares and capacity, it has risen to 2,130,000 and is still growing fast.

The cheapest unrestricted fare between Dublin and London was £176 in 1986; it is now £64. Even the cheapest APEX fare has dropped from £94 to £57, and the standard economy return has dropped from £154 to £104.

British officials, backed by a small but growing number of their opposite numbers in other European States, are now pushing for more liberal bilateral agreements, while the overall goal of a completely free European aviation market inches forward. But there is still a long way to go.

Leap year for passenger traffic

With just a decade to run of the century that brought powered flight, the already huge number of air passengers is set to double, writes *Frank Robson*.

In the year up to December 1987 the 1.14 billion passenger total worldwide was up 8 per cent on the previous year. This year the growth has been close to 10 per cent, almost double the average annual increase.

More than 87.5 million people, about one in 13 of the 1987 world total, used airports in the United Kingdom.

A 100,000-capacity Wembley Stadium can be a useful "abacus" in understanding what is represented by the passenger growth facing the aviation industry. That world passenger total for the year, for instance, represents Wembley being packed full 11,400 times over.

The figure for those flying in and out of UK airports is something like 875 full-capacity Wembleys — or enough air travellers to fill the stadium two-and-a-half times over, on average, on every day of the year.

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, with London's Heathrow and Gatwick among its seven airports, last year accounted for 62 million of the passengers using Britain's air terminals.

Now BAA is forecasting that passenger traffic at its airports could more than double by the year 2005, perhaps even by the centenary of the Wright brothers' historic first flight in December 2003.

This would represent an average annual growth rate of between 3 and 5 per cent.

The underlying assumptions in this prediction are, in the view of some air transport analysts, that present air traffic control problems will be solved by better European co-operation. And also that more passengers will be travelling in fewer, larger, aircraft.

Even so, similar passenger traffic growth would mean that more than two billion passengers will be flying in 2003.

With a growing demand for airport "slots" for departing aircraft, administrative planners would like to see more

big jet being used on the busier short and medium-haul routes. They point to Japan where Boeing 747 jumbos are used to carry as many as 550 passengers on some internal services.

The Geneva-based International Air Transport Association (Iata), whose 170-member airlines account for three-quarters of all air passengers, anticipates sharing a bumper profit in 1988.

"In terms of traffic growth for 1988 we are close to 10 per cent," says David Kyd, a spokesman for Iata. He predicts this will ease back next year to perhaps 7

per cent, and 6 per cent the year after. But in each case these would still be better than the average annual increase.

More than 24 million passengers were carried over the North Atlantic last year, an increase of more than 20 per cent on 1986 when airlines were still feeling the pinch of the traffic fall-off in the wake of Chernobyl and the Libyan bombing.

Of the estimated 1,037 million who flew on scheduled services 223 million, or 21 per cent, were international passengers — an increase of 13 per cent on 1986. The increase for the 814 million domestic passengers was 7 per cent.

The "all change" following the British Airways buy-out of British Caledonian, has led to important new developments on the former BCal's European and domestic routes from Gatwick. BA and British Midland are increasing efforts to improve their share of the Heathrow-Glasgow/Edinburgh and Belfast trunk routes, each of which topped a million passengers during 1987.

Both BA chief executive, Sir Colin Marshall, and BMA chairman, Michael Bishop, believe that new passenger traffic generated on the BA shuttle and rival BMA services will continue to grow. Air UK, which has just taken over the former BCal Gatwick-Edinburgh and Glasgow services, expects to fly 330,000 passengers on its new twin trunk routes during the first year.



Air traffic controllers are being stretched to breaking point: some airports are considering "stress counsellors"

One topic now dominates any discussion between airline managers and directors — congestion. Europe's airports are full, or soon will be. The air traffic control system is stretched to breaking point to cope with the mass of aircraft wanting to fly the airways, writes *Harvey Elliott*.

Airlines are losing money because of the delays. Passengers are becoming frustrated and sometimes angry. Some airports are even considering bringing in "stress counsellors" to try to alleviate the tension should next summer be as bad as last.

Little can be done, in the short term, to ease the congestion on runways and in the existing terminals. A new airport could take up to 15 years to plan and build, by which time the number of people travelling will almost certainly have doubled.

In the air the Civil Aviation Authority is spending £600 million on improvements to the air traffic control system over the next 10 years, which should help to some extent but many critics argue it will hardly keep pace with demand and certainly will not provide a palliative for the next few years.

Everyone knows the prob-

System almost out of control

lem. But what, practically, can be done now?

● Slots. Each year the airlines meet to bid for their own take-off and landing times at the busiest airports. They have recently put in for slots which, if turned into reality, would increase Gatwick's movements by more than 50 per cent, even though the single runway cannot squeeze in more than about one per cent more take-offs and landings than it coped with — just — last year.

Incredibly, during these negotiations, no-one either from the airport or air traffic control is present to bring a touch of hard-nosed practicality to the dreams of the airlines. They must be there in future to lay down the parameters early and prevent simply ludicrous slot bids from being made.

● Runways and terminals. No new runways are being built or even proposed throughout Europe. The BAA argues that, even though traffic will double

between now and 2005, there is no need to develop a new terminal or a new runway for many years yet and airlines can simply use Stansted which is currently free from restrictions.

Within five years, however, Stansted will be full itself. We cannot afford any further

Spending £600m on improvements

delay. Planning permission for Terminal Five at Heathrow must be made now and urgent attention given immediately to developing existing facilities, like Manston in Kent, and building a second runway and additional terminals at Stansted.

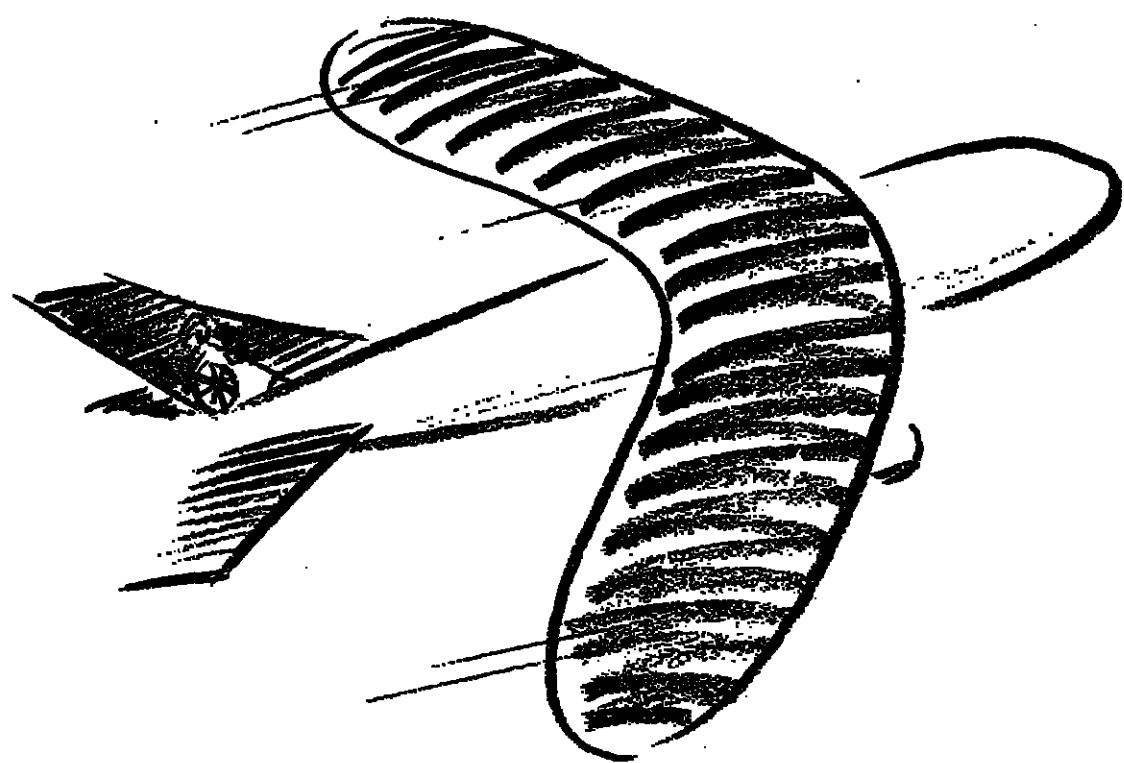
● Regional airports. There is plenty of room for development of new services from Manchester, Cardiff, Birmingham, and the other regional airports around

Britain. Airlines should be encouraged by financial incentives to use them.

● Air traffic control. In an area one seventh the size of the USA, European airlines have to cope with 18 civilian air traffic control systems. To fly from Heathrow to Munich, less than 1,000 kilometres, an aircraft must fly through 13 air traffic control systems. As Boeing's president, Mr Frank Shronit, recently pointed out, this resulted in a 39 per cent increase in the number of delayed flights between 1986 and 1987 and a 186 per cent increase in time lost to these delays.

"If aviation is to continue to underpin the expansion of trade and tourism, create economic opportunities and provide more jobs, it is essential to ensure that airport and airway congestion are not allowed to strangle its growth," he said.

● Protesters. The airlines will carry more than 1,000 million passengers this year. In Britain alone more than 80 million will pass through airports. Someone in Government must soon grasp the nettle of what to do with them and face up to the handful of protesters who are strangling the industry.



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Britannia

The plane-makers' battle of the boom

More than 9,000 new aircraft, worth £220 billion, are likely to be sold to airlines between now and the year 2005, providing manufacturers with both a boom and a headache, writes *Harvey Elliott*.

To cope with the surge in air travel and to replace the 2,500 aircraft now approaching retirement it is confidently forecast that the world's plane-makers will be working flat out for years to come.

Already the European consortium, Airbus Industrie, is running into a problem of capacity. At its main assembly plant in Toulouse, France, Airbus is turning out three and a half A320 and four wide-bodied aircraft a month from its two production lines, compared with 28 a month from Boeing and 10 from McDonnell Douglas.

Airbus already has a backlog of 633 orders and have told potential customers they must wait up to four years for deliveries. They are now trying to find ways of increasing that production rate and even looking to America to find spare manufacturing capacity where the parts supplied from throughout Europe can be welded together.

Boeing is also trying to increase its production to meet the surge in demand but, like Airbus, it is running into problems of insufficient space and manpower.

The manufacturers are also debating what size of aircraft will be needed. Congestion at airports must inevitably lead to an increase in the size of the new jets, says one argument. Airlines will need to carry more and more passengers on fewer take-offs and landings, just to meet the increased demand without increasing the number of flights.

Yet European liberalization could lead to a move in the opposite direction. As airlines turn to regional airports to avoid congestion at the existing major international "gateways" they will need smaller aircraft to fly on the less busy routes, it is said.

British manufacturers such as Shorts and British Aerospace are hoping that the latter argument proves correct and that they can cash in on the boom by selling more of their smaller, commuter aircraft such as the BAe 146 and the proposed new Shorts FJX.

Boeing, on the other hand, is convinced that the average seating capacity will rise by around 23 per cent and British Airways is looking eventually to increase the average seats of its aircraft by 50 per cent.

Whatever happens, the new aircraft will be more efficient, safer and more attractive to fly

Passenger comfort is fast improving

in. Already airlines such as British Midland are flying the new Boeing 737-400 with bright, blue and white leather seats making the interior both light and welcoming. And the new A320 has wider aisles, making passenger service from trolleys easier.

And the new ultra-long range jets, such as the Boeing 747-400 and the McDonnell Douglas MD11, are being designed from scratch to cater for passengers who may be on board for up to 18 hours.

Engines are becoming quieter, inside and outside the cabin, while computers are taking the hassle out of flying, turning the crew into little more than monitors ensuring nothing goes wrong.

Best carrier to Africa

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To anyone who has ever flown SAA this will come as no surprise.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Fax takes junk into the future

Junk mail we all know about: junk phone calls are becoming increasingly common. What new delights/horror does the growing direct marketing industry have in store for us?

OPINION

Philip Kleinman

For those people equipped with facsimile machines — mostly office workers — one answer ought to be obvious: junk fax. In the United States there are fears of a coming deluge of junk fax messages.

About 1.5 million fax machines are estimated to have been installed in American offices, and the number is rapidly increasing. Business-to-business advertisers are already using fax to get at prospective customers, and lists of fax numbers have gained great value. According to the American magazine *Direct Marketing*, one firm is even offering secretaries valuable gifts in exchange for lists.

The advantages of fax to the advertiser are that messages are more likely to be read than conventional mailers and, unlike telephone calls, they cannot be cut short. For the recipient, the main disadvantage is that an advertisement may hold up other, possibly more urgent, messages. Another problem is that the recipient pays for the paper on which messages are printed.

So far fax advertising is restricted to particular kinds of product, because fax machines are found in offices and not homes. But they could become widespread domestic equipment, as have personal computers. Today, thanks to a combination of technological progress and aggressive selling by entrepreneurs such as Alan Sugar of Amstrad, computers have become a mass market product and many people of modest means own one.

Of course, most homes are still computerless, but one can envisage that one day they will be as common as video recorders. Fax machines may well follow a

similar path. In Japan, as reported in *The Times* last Friday, the number of fax machines will have doubled in just 12 months. Japan will have almost four times as many as the United States.

The reasons for having a home fax are the same as for installing one in the office — to communicate quickly and cheaply without worrying about postal delays or unattended telephones. And fax can instantly deliver not only text but pictures. One can visualize television commercials in which grandma pulls out of her machine a photograph of the new baby in Australia.

Even if only the more affluent homes were equipped with fax, that would still open up great new opportunities for direct marketers of all kinds of goods and services. For people who object to receiving junk fax, just as some object to junk mail, the same arrangements could be introduced to enable them to keep their privacy (and fax paper) undisturbed.

Others would doubtless enjoy reading fax ads, which would necessarily be more concise than mailers. They could also, through the increasing computerization of direct marketing, be personalized in a more immediate and effective way.

Example: "To Jane Plain. Today is your birthday, Jane, and our company wishes you many happy returns. We offer you a 10 per cent birthday discount on the price of our exercise bicycle. Just fax your order to the number below."

Mind you, when the brave new electronic world really arrives, every home will have a large wall screen to display such messages and a set of buttons for ordering.

The author is editor of the new monthly newsletter "Marketing Advantage" and its accompanying "Anthology of Outstanding Marketing Ideas".

Beaming a holy message

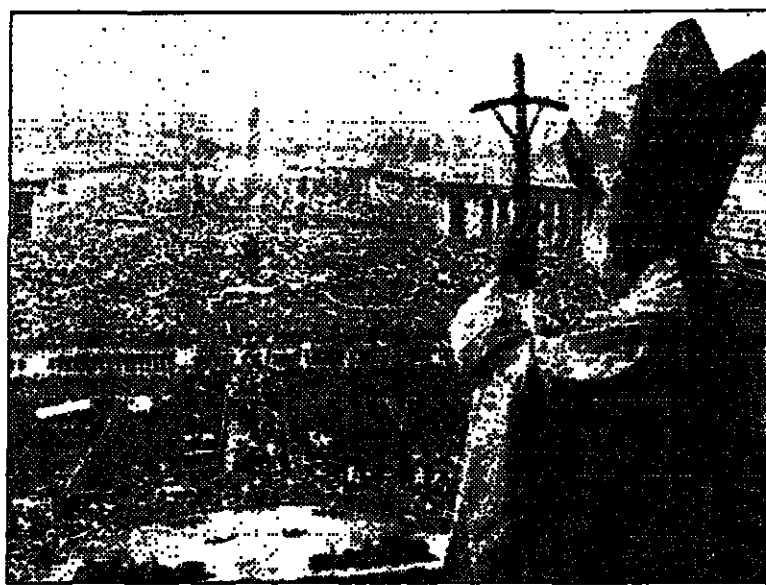
Jennifer Clark

reports on the

Vatican's plan for a satellite TV channel

The Pope may soon be speaking to the faithful by satellite, beaming the gospel to the most remote corners of the globe, following proposals that Pope John Paul II, whose sensational papal pilgrimages have already made him something of a media star, should have his own satellite TV channel. Besides transmitting messages from the Holy Father, the Vatican channel would broadcast spiritual exercises for bishops and priests, sermons to the faithful, and evangelical programmes with a "target audience" of the unconverted.

The project, called Lumen 2000, is causing a stir both inside and outside the Vatican. Its declared aim is to launch three satellites over the next five years "to take the message of the gospel from the pulpit to the small screen". Precisely what message Lumen 2000 will spread to the faithful has become a point of controversy in the Catholic Church. In an article



Reaching the faithful: now the Pope is seeking to address a wider audience

called "Converting the World by Satellite", the Catholic monthly publication *Jesus* expressed its concern about "a new form of spiritual colonization" and "a limitation of ecclesiastical pluralism".

Lumen 2000 has met with outright hostility from the International Catholic Organization for Radio and

Television, which sees the initiative as monopolizing a role that should be reserved for local churches. The Italian Press has been busy either sensationalizing or ridiculing plans for a Vatican satellite network. But inside the Vatican, cooler heads prevail. Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State, defined Lumen 2000 as

"one initiative among many that, though laudable for its diligence, is not official in character".

The three creators of Lumen 2000, in any case, have already demonstrated a knack for media manipulation worthy of the best advertising agency. The main force behind the idea is a Dutch foundation called *Testimony of God's Love*. Behind the foundation is Piet Derksen, a devout 74-year-old Dutch entrepreneur who made his fortune in family tourism. Derksen began his religious work in 1982 after he recovered from a long illness. The foundation publishes a Catholic family magazine, *Manna*, and also unsuccessfully attempted to launch a Catholic TV network in Holland.

Derksen founded Lumen 2000 in 1986 with an ex-colonel from the American Air Force, Robert Cavar, also an entrepreneur and a devout Catholic, and with missionary Tom Forrest, who from 1978 to 1984 was president of the International Council for Renewal of Charismatic Catholicism. This rather colourful trio share a common conviction that the mass media offer new evangelical opportunities for the Catholic Church. But for the present, the Vatican is being cautious about moving into such a mine-laden territory as television evangelism.

Aunty's free service

Thanks to satellite technology, the BBC World Service is reaching a bigger audience in Western Europe than at any time since the Second World War. This is the satisfying conclusion reached at Bush House after 18 months of transmitting free programmes to Europe via two channels of Eutelsat 1.

There are now 26 radio stations rebroadcasting the service in eight countries, but outside the BBC the notion that commercial stations abroad should be subsidized by a free news service may be harder to digest.

Next year, Independent Radio News is to start transmitting its own satellite service to Europe. But according to John Perkins, the editor, IRN will be hampered in finding buyers by unfair competition from the BBC.

"We're at a tremendous disadvantage. Lots of people would like our service, but we're up against the BBC who are giving it away," he says. "We're hamstringed by costs, while the BBC is footing the bill with taxpayer's money."

The World Service has a tradition of excellence in its news, but the biggest attraction is that it comes free. Foreign radio stations and cable operators pay nothing for the BBC programmes beyond the cost of a satellite dish to receive the service. The same situation could not arise in England. Under current legislation commercial stations here are obliged to carry IRN bulletins, for which they pay by giving IRN air time for advertisements.

Mark Deutsch, development manager for the World Service, is untroubled by the BBC's failure to exploit commercially the provision of a first-rate news service. "Our brief is to increase our audience," he says.

When the two satellite channels were first tested on a trial basis, the BBC had no idea of the market on its doorstep. "We were prepared for it to flop," Deutsch says. "But it has succeeded way beyond our hopes."

Andrew Lycett

Kate Finch

How to feed TV's appetite for news

After four decades as a BBC outpost, Visnews is making

its own headlines

visnews, the London-based international television news agency, did not take long to usurp ITN's shoes at Super Channel. Since the beginning of last week it has been supplying regular news feeds to the troubled Italian-owned satellite operator.

Only three weeks ago, following a dispute over a small matter of £400,000 in unpaid fees, ITN withdrew its nightly *World News* programme from Super Channel. Visnews promptly stepped in and, though no one would compare its feeds of raw film footage with ITN's finely-honed product, its ambitions are clear. After four decades with a reputation as an honorary BBC outpost, Visnews intends to compete strongly in the new deregulated global media market.

The tone was set earlier this month when it announced a £30 million deal to supply material to Sky News, the 24-hour news satellite channel due to

start in February. At the same time it revealed that National Broadcasting Company (NBC), a US network, is paying \$10 million for a 37.75 per cent stake in Visnews. Reuters, the news agency, retains the majority (51 per cent) shareholding, while the BBC has 11.25 per cent.

New Zealander Julian Kerr, a Reuters correspondent turned manager, is seconded to Visnews as managing director. "We provide the building blocks of TV news bulletins," he says.

Those building blocks are Visnews's 12 satellite feeds throughout the day. The feeds comprise 15 to 45 minutes' worth of 90-second clips —

vision and other links. Visnews sells to 400 broadcasting organizations in 84 countries.

Visnews is now taking a familiar road, trying to "add value" to its output. It has a facilities house in central London. Foreign broadcasting stations, such as Boston's Christian Science Broadcasting, use its studios for daily news programmes, and it sits on 60 million feet of "the largest TV film archive in the world".

Lately it has started to put greater emphasis on its editorial coverage, bringing in Stephen Claypole, formerly editor of BBC External Services, as head of news, and David Kogan, formerly an editor on BBC's *Breakfast*

Time, as London managing editor. Already, in collaboration with Diverse Productions, Visnews produces a daily business show for TV Tokyo. It has just submitted an application to provide news for Channel 4's new breakfast programme.

And then the long-term ambitions: Kerr denies, as one paper put it, that Visnews wants to "replace" ITN. He admits he is unclear about the recent Broadcasting White Paper's attitude to news organizations. But he believes it gives Visnews an opportunity to compete with ITN and to provide independent television contractors (and the public) with a choice of news service — an interesting situation for a company where BBC director general, Michael Checkland, is the immediate past chairman and John Willson, the corporation's controller of editorial policy, remains a director.

Andrew Lycett

Kate Finch

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MEDIA & MARKETING



Sizing up the opposition: the *Observer's* falling sales make it vulnerable, the *Sunday Telegraph* is thought too closely aligned to its elderly readership; only the *Sunday Times* is growing

Is there a gap on Sunday?

It is a significant day for the future of Sunday newspaper publishing in Britain. This morning, the proposed *Sunday Correspondent* hopes to complete negotiations on its new offices in Clerkenwell. The first quality Sunday newspaper to be launched since the *Sunday Telegraph* in 1961, it aims to be publishing by the spring.

Later today, a mile or so away in City Road, Andreas Whitam-Smith and his fellow directors of *The Independent* gather for their monthly board meeting. They will discuss the paper's much mooted Sunday edition. But is *The Independent's* low-key espousal of the Sunday newspaper market motivated by anything other than a desire to frighten investors away from *The Sunday Correspondent*, and keep the fourth quality Sunday option open for itself?

The Independent undoubtedly wants to publish on Sundays. Finance director Christopher Barton said this week: "We're definitely looking at it, but proposals haven't been put to our board or our shareholders."

Certain shareholders have, nevertheless, voted with their cheques. Britain's largest insurance company, the Prudential, is the lead investor in *The Sunday Correspondent*, despite having a stake in *The Independent*. In a prospectus published last week it committed

Will *The Sunday Correspondent* scupper *The Independent's* ambitions for seven-day publication? Andrew Lycett reports

itself to helping to raise £16.5 million by the end of the year for the new Sunday paper. Martin Clarke of Prudential Venture Capital admits *The Independent* has not approached him, but he says that for them to launch a Sunday "would put their investment at risk".

Whitman-Smith probably accepts this is true — at least for the time being. He and his co-founders will not want to dilute their holdings for a precipitate and risky venture. Although the paper is now said to be in profit, cash reserves are low after two years of overall losses and the recent launch of a Saturday magazine, estimated to have cost £1 million. Barton says if the magazine cost is taken out, *The Independent* "nearly broke even". He also says the paper's second half profit was not as much as the £1.72 million loss in the first half, so *The Independent's* loss for 1987-8 is expected to be slightly over £1 million, compared with a £4.5 million profit forecast at its launch.

On the basis of these figures, industry analysts expect *The Independent* will see how its putative competitor fares before undertaking a seven-day operation. The idea of *The Sunday Correspondent* was

proposed at the start of the year by David Blake, former business news editor of *The Times*. He teamed up with David Lipsey, editor of the late *New Society*, and with Douglas Long, who was general manager of *The Independent* at its launch, and they raised £1.7 million in start-up capital. The two Davids are now joint deputy editors, with Long as chairman of the new paper. Peter Cole, ex-deputy editor of *The Guardian*, came on board as the paper's £70,000-a-year editor. Nick Shott, group marketing director of Express Newspapers until August, is chief executive.

They see their window of opportunity, inevitably, in *Independent* country — in Blake's words, "the gap at the top end of the market". The quality Sunday newspaper market, they say, has failed to keep pace with quality dailies, in terms of both advertising and circulation. For while the quality dailies are selling 20 per cent more in 1988 than in 1982, the quality Sundays sell only 2 per cent more. Even that small growth is solely attributable to *The Times* and the circulation of the *Observer* and the *Sunday Telegraph* have declined by 10.9 per cent and 14.3 per

cent respectively since 1982. They are both considered vulnerable. Despite redesigns and extra sections, the *Observer* has failed to halt its circulation decline. The *Sunday Telegraph* is thought to be too closely aligned to its traditional elderly readership to respond effectively to *The Sunday Correspondent*. "There is enthusiasm for a new, non-partisan, concise alternative," says *The Sunday Correspondent* prospectus, drawing on market research.

Concise is a key word. Cole sees a reaction against the multi-sectioned Sunday paper: "People don't want this overwhelming bulk; they want a paper that is organized and selective." He proposes a 50-page upmarket broadsheet newspaper in two sections — News and Culture/Living — with 27 to 30 pages of editorial, to be accompanied by a 62-page magazine with 30 pages of editorial. The price will be 60p and expected circulation is 362,000 in the first year, rising to 625,000 by 1993. Apart from taking from the existing quality Sundays, the new paper expects to expand Sunday reader-

ship. But Blake maintains they are not pitching at the middle market. Opinion is divided among media analysts about *The Sunday Correspondent's* prospects. Brian Jacobs, media director of Leo Burnett, believes its chances are "pretty good". A more guarded view comes from Vic Davies, research director of The Media Business. He argues that Sundays are "a very expensive marketplace to enter. It takes a very long time to get people into the purchasing habit. I don't think *The Sunday Correspondent's* proposed first-year promotion budget of £5 million is enough."

John Ayling, of John Ayling and Associates, is probably right in observing: "There is clearly a lot of readership in the week which is not duplicated on Sundays. But, like *The Independent*, whether this paper succeeds depends on the quality of the editorial rather than the positioning."

Editor Cole says he has already made some "very impressive" editorial appointments. But he cannot reveal names until the latest £16.5 million funding is in place, and that could mean the beginning of next year. *The Independent's* Barton doubts whether this will give the new paper enough time to be on the streets in the spring. "If they come out that early, they're likely to make mistakes," he observes. Whitman-Smith, together with the analysts, will be waiting.

BYLINES

Face lift for Logan

Nick Logan, founder and publisher of *The Face* and *Arena*, the two most influential British style magazines of the Eighties, has sold 40 per cent of his company to Condé Nast for an undisclosed sum. "Everything will continue as it is," he said yesterday, following the announcement of the deal. "The magazines are still under our control. But the deal will allow us to grow at a natural pace, knowing there's a cushion of support under us. It also takes away the administrative burden, which has doubled since the launch of *Arena*." *The Face*, which Logan used his own resources to launch in 1980 after editing the *New Musical Express* for IPC and inventing *Smash Hits* for EMAP, has now passed 100 issues and is selling 88,000 copies per month. The most recent issue of *Arena*, which first appeared last year and provided the impetus for Condé Nast to launch the British edition of *GQ*, sold 66,500 copies. Is Condé Nast an editorial consultant to their existing titles? "They might ask me for advice, I suppose," he said, "but only on an informal basis."

Enquirer wins

An attempt by newspaper conglomerates to buy America's best selling tabloid, the sensationalist *National Enquirer*, has been foiled. The death of proprietor Generoso Pope last month brought speculation that his widow would sell the weekly he has nurtured for the past 30 years. Three trustees headed by Peter Peterson, the Secretary of Commerce under Richard Nixon and former chairman of the Wall Street brokerage house Lehman Brothers, will be supervising the *Enquirer's* finance arrangements. As one source said: "He won't be the type to attend editorial meetings."

Classical bids

The IBA has received three "classical music" applications for the 24-hour music station on offer in the London area, and one big band and nostalgia proposal which comes from the Hansot Trust. The classical contenders include Music for London (MFL), backed by Space City Music Limited, a company specializing in writing and producing recordings for TV soundtracks; Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Company; and Light 99, a recording studio and publishing company.

Network salaries

The £20,000 pay rise announced for the BBC's director-general still leaves Michael Checkland earning less than his equivalent at Thames Television, managing director Richard Dunn. Dunn earns £102,000 against Checkland's £95,000-£100,000. BBC chairman Marmaduke Hussey's 30 per cent increase does not even bring him on a par with his Thames counterpart, Sir Ian Trethowan. Hussey now earns £35,340 against Sir Ian's £38,000.

Suitable subject

Adam Raphael, the *Observer's* executive editor and former anchorman on BBC's *Newsnight*, is writing a book on libel. Raphael has had some personal experience in this area. He was successfully sued 10 years ago by the former Tory MP Reginald

Jane Slade

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News D.A./P.A. Duties will involve live gallery operation/ timings, autocue, cap gen recall, stills store recall and operation of the BASYS News computer. There will be a D.A. and P.A. for each live transmission.

News Operations Assistant. Duties will involve live stills store operation/cap gen operation/graphics area operation, according to previous experience. Live operational experience is more important than a full command of all duties.

News Floor Managers will be responsible for the efficient running of a four camera line news studio.

If you have relevant experience in any of the above duties, particularly in live broadcasting, then write with a full CV, daytime phone no., and current salary, to:

Louise Stott, Personnel Officer, Sky Television, 31-36 Foley Street, London W1P 7LB.

In addition to good salaries, company benefits will include 5 weeks holiday, a contributory pension scheme and BUPA.

WELL SPOKEN? QUICK THINKING? SPORTS MINDED?

SHROPSHIRE PUBLICATIONS is one of the UK's fastest growing specialist publishing companies with a base of established excellence in their international publications.

Our continued expansion necessitates our offer of a career in advertising sales for people who display outstanding levels of flair and determination, which will enable them to achieve success in our highly competitive environment.

Applicants, who must be exceptionally articulate and educated to 'A' level standard, will ideally be 25-50 years of age, and possess the ability and confidence to deal at Director level.

Realistic income in excess of £25,000 during the first 12 months. Based in central London.

For interview, telephone the Sales Director, Dennis Wood on

01-636 8917

CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS



We are an equal opportunities employer

Producer Current Affairs Television

Spotlight, BBC Northern Ireland's investigative current affairs programme is looking for an experienced television producer who can help enhance its reputation for tough documentary reporting.

You'll have to show us that you understand the complexities of the Northern Ireland story, and that you are familiar, too, with Irish and UK politics. The job requires stamina, commitment and, of course, visual flair. From time-to-time you will also be expected to contribute to BBC Northern Ireland news programmes and to network television.

Offered as a one-year contract. Salary: £14,743 - £20,874, plus an allowance of £1,114 p.a. Based Belfast.

For an application form send s.a.e. (quoting ref. 7994/T) to: Appointments Unit, BBC, Broadcasting House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast BT2 8HQ.

Completed application forms should be returned by Monday, 12th December 1988.

News Producer Radio Nottingham

Radio Nottingham needs a News Producer to join a team with a reputation for digging out its own stories and developing them for news and sequence programmes. Nottingham is a busy news area, and we are looking for someone with a flair for ideas - and a hard nose for news. You should be able to contribute to our philosophy of originating the news, rather than following up other people's stories. An existing record as a broadcast journalist would be a decided asset.

You will prepare and produce bulletins, current affairs programmes and topical sequences, including interviewing, reporting, presentation and news reading; operate studio equipment, public relations and publicity work and frequent evening and weekend work also involved.

We need proven journalistic experience at Sub-editor or Reporter level; good microphone voice; ability to operate technical equipment and work under pressure as part of a small, integrated team; and a current driving licence. You must be prepared to live close to the station.

Knowledge of the station's editorial area and audience and experience in broadcasting techniques an advantage.

Salary: £11,371 - £16,080 plus an allowance of £1,114 p.a.

For further details, contact Chris Thrope on 0602 415161.

Please write with C.V. to (quote ref. 725/T) Room 613, BBC Pebble Mill, Birmingham B5 7QJ.

Relocation expenses considered for permanent posts.
Published by BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA.

PRESS & PR MANAGER

Salary Package £20,000 to £25,000

News International, Britain's market leader in the national newspaper industry, now has an exciting career opportunity at its headquarters near St Catherine's Dock. The Wapping plant, the largest and most advanced publishing centre in Europe, is the home of The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun, The News of the World and Today, producing 36 million newspapers a week.

To further the growth and development of these five titles the new post of Press and PR Manager has been created. It will require active involvement in all aspects of Public Relations, Press and Publicity. Reporting to the Managing Director, the new manager will liaise with Senior Management, Editors, Marketing, Advertising and Promotion departments, focussing on interesting and news worthy events.

It is essential that the successful applicant will have spent several years as a journalist in Regional or National newspapers but will already have some experience in a PR or Press function.

Although this position carries considerable development potential, initially you will be working 'hands on' with secretarial support to establish both the position and the internal lines of communication. A self motivated, energetic individual is a must.

For further information in confidence please contact Murray Dickson or send him full career details Quoting Ref 2443.

International Buildings, 71 Kingsway, London WC2B 6ST
Tel: 01-404 5701 Fax: 01-242 0515

VICKY MANN & ASSOCIATES

SEARCH AND SELECTION SPECIALISTS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

APPEALS DIRECTOR

(£20,000 PA 2 YEAR CONTRACT)

Help build the future for cancer patients

The Cancer services Department of a major London postgraduate teaching hospital needs an Appeals Director to raise £5 million for a new cancer centre. We are seeking a dynamic and innovative individual to find funding from a variety of sources particularly in West London and the Thames Valley. The successful applicant will be an excellent communicator with a track record in marketing or public relations.

If your skills could help to make life better for future cancer patients please send a CV to Mrs Doreen Lee, Dept of Clinical Oncology, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Rd, London W12 0HS.

SKY MAGAZINE DESIGNERS AND SUB EDITORS

Due to internal promotion, we are looking for enthusiastic and experienced designers and sub editors who can produce features with flair despite hectic schedule. If you are interested in film, fashion, TV, video and music, and think you can make a contribution to Britain's best-selling youth style monthly, write with a full cv to:

Mike Roberts, Managing Editor, SKY Magazine, 27 Swinton Street, London WC1X 9NW.

THE RIGHT CAREER MOVE

Cornhill Publications is one of Europe's fastest growing and successful companies producing international Business and Technology titles.

Our programme for the coming year has created a limited number of vacancies for top quality Advertising Sales Executives.

Well educated, articulate young people preferably with a strong sales or business background are invited to talk to us now!

The ability to sell advertising pages at director level will produce an income level of £25 - 55K P.A. and an opportunity to become involved with some of the most exciting business publications on the international media scene.

In the first instance please telephone

CHRIS HUMPHREYS or
JULIEN WILDMAN on
01-240 1515.



Gastra Sails

Gastra Sails International Limited
PO Box 69527
Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: 852 3 727 4411, Fax: 852 3 727 7660

SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER

Required to fill position with the most awarded company in the windsurfing industry at its HONG KONG H.Q.

The successful candidate will be a capable, well organized, creative manager with ability and charisma to lead a team.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR:
* Development & execution of marketing plans
* Product Development
* Promotional Programmes
* Communication to Sales Force
* Maintain & use effective market research
* Co-ordinate efforts of Gastra's Marketing Team

Successful candidates will have at least 4 years' product management experience, preferably in the sporting field, with direct involvement in each above area. Must be prepared to travel overseas regularly. A degree in marketing or business an advantage and fluent spoken & written English essential.

Generous expatriate remuneration packages will be offered as part of a minimum 3 year contract in Hong Kong.

Position also available for PRODUCT MANAGER where qualification requirements are less demanding. At least 2 years' product management in sporting goods.

Apply with written resume to:
Gastra Sails International, PO Box 69527, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

PROPERTY RESEARCH

Knigh Frank & Rutley is a leading international firm of property consultants with an acknowledged reputation in property research.

Due to continuing expansion in this field, KFR Research is seeking to recruit additional staff at two levels.

Research Analyst

This position involves the in-depth analysis of a wide range of issues for both the private and public sector and the clarification and presentation of findings to both senior management and clients.

We require a person aged mid to late 20's with several years experience in an applied research environment, not necessarily related to the property market, with suitable academic qualifications and excellent communication skills. We offer the opportunity to join and progress in a committed research team analysing an active and fast moving market.

Research Assistant

This position involves the collection, interpretation and presentation of research material, allied to the development of information systems.

We require a recent graduate, in a numerate discipline, who is accurate and has the ability to work independently and with initiative. Experience of working with computerised systems would be an advantage. We offer the opportunity of developing research skills within an expanding department.

Salaries will be competitive and reflect experience. Please direct your inquiry and applications, enclosing a CV, to:
For Directors
Head of Research

20 Haverstock Square, London W1P 9AU

COULD YOU SELL THIS SPACE?

Graduates and aspiring non-graduates. If you are keen to get started on a definite career path and can measure up to a challenge with confidence then we are ready, willing and able to place you with one of our clients.

We represent leading National Magazines in both Business and Consumer markets.

Ad Managers on these magazines are looking for strong-motivated personalities with management potential to be realised very early on in your career.

In return, these key publishing houses are offering a good basic salary plus group commission, full training and excellent prospects in a young and lively team.

Whatever your background, if you consider yourself as confidently able to meet these requirements, then call me: SUAN JONES on 01-438 1821 to arrange an interview. Or if you prefer, post, or fax, your CV and I will contact you.

£20-25,000 p.a. experience in Advertising Sales and ready for a change of scene? We now have two positions available in Display Sales on a London, entertainment/lifestyle magazine. Basic £10,000 to £12,000 (neg) + Commission. Call Suan Jones on 01-438 1821 for interview.

Word House 133 Oxford Street London W1R 1TD
Fax: 01-437 4488

ALBERT HARTLEY LIMITED BARNOLDSWICK EXPERIENCED TEXTILE DESIGNER

Albert Hartley Limited, Barnoldswick, leading printers of household textiles and members of the highly successful Coats Viyella Group, invite applications from experienced TEXTILE/WALL-COVERING DESIGNERS to join their established design team.

Thorough commercial studio experience is essential, with ability to produce original designs and progress design work through to engraving. Salary will be negotiable depending on experience and ability and an attractive studio provides an excellent environment in which to work.

Written applications should give full details of age, experience, qualifications and current salary to:

The Personnel Manager
Albert Hartley Limited
Crownmill Mill, Barnoldswick
Cotnam, Lancashire BB8 5RP

Continued from page 20

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LONE RANGER

£14,000 + Executive's Package

Close to Sloane Square, this charming Chief Executive operates a tiny, yet thriving, international business centred around diverse and varied Engineering enterprises. His PA speaks French, brings self-motivated energy to delegated tasks and possesses natural ease whether greeting a VIP or travelling abroad. Aged 25+, you also have good shorthand and thrive on working one-on-one.

Call Lisa Sellow on 01-491-1868.

01-491 1868

Secretary/PA to FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

£13,500 P.A. Victoria

Post-moving Publishing and Exhibition company requires flexible PA with excellent WP skills, audio, and plenty of initiative. You will probably have experience at Director level and preferably in the finance field.

Telephone Carole Fancourt on 01 894 1717 or send CV to:

Fergus Investments Ltd
Greenwich Street
London SW1P 1DA

KINGSTON

SECRETARY/PA to Chief Executive

& not bad + benefits

This is a stimulating and demanding post requiring good secretarial skills, not diplomacy but above all, a sense of humour. The Chief Executive is keen to work with a PA who is a true PA, not just a secretary. Personal attention for 10 staff. We need 200 hours worldwide in some experience in the hospitality industry could be useful.

For further details contact Mrs. Anne-Marie Corley, East Western Hotels, 100 Victoria Road, London SW18 1TL. Tel: 01-874-4629 ext. 229.

PA WITH GERMAN

£14,000

The young, dynamic Director of this German Finance Co. requires a PA with a very good command of German (English mother-tongue standard preferred) to share his enthusiasm and run his busy schedule.

You will have excellent skills including accurate shorthand and impeccable presentation. Above all, your diplomacy, initiative and professionalism will be appreciated. Constant contact with major institutions and clients world-wide. He is informal and loves his work. With the right attitude and a sense of humour, you will find Preferred Age: late 20s early 30s - an exceptional 'early 20s' would be considered.

International Secretaries Ltd
01-437-1700

PA TO CHAIRMAN

£15,000

Now opportunity to work at the top of the growing international company for a leading financial institution. Your ongoing role will maintain the development of new systems in order to cope with the company's current expansion programme. Supervising staff and providing your boss with full secretarial support. Excellent salary and benefits package. Call Glynis Rogers on 01-491 1868

International Secretaries Ltd
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SECRETARY/PA. DESIGN

A capable person needed for the New Business Department of Michael Peters and Partners, part of the world's leading independent Design consultancy.

Excellent organisational skills, Wordperfect WP experience, min. 60 wpm, patience under pressure and the ability to work as part of a team all essential. A highly responsible job within a young lively exciting environment.

£10 - 11,000 and private health insurance.

C.V.'s to Beverly Thompson, Michael Peters and Partners, 3 Old Street, London W11 4BE.

FRENCH PA

Salary to £14,000

A perfectly bilingual PA/Admin with 4 years' experience at senior level req'd to assist Manager of Franco British Co in W1. Position involves travelling and more admin than sec duties.

ITALIAN PA

£15,000

An expensive PA with poise and diplomacy is req'd to assist the MD of well established co located near Charing Cross. Italian must be excellent for constant client liaison and to take charge when MD is away. Excellent presentation and background important. Salary can be negotiated.

Boyes Bilingual Agency 01 404 4434.

A PLACE IN THE SUN IN THE NEW YEAR?

North African Coast - Tax Free Salary

Our company requires mature secretaries with at least 7 years experience at management level. Air fare paid, accommodation provided. 30 days annual leave plus bank holidays. Applicants must be aged 35-45 and have shorthand and typing certificates for 100/60 wpm respectively. Knowledge of word processing essential and supervision of typing technical reports desirable.

For information/application form contact Paul Carey at:

WHITEHEAD EXPORTS LIMITED
29 Dovesbury Road, Dollis Hill, London NW10 1EL
Tel: 01-462 8640, Fax: 01-462 8371.

SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT

£20,000+

Opportunity for manager/ess & two experienced interviewers to join Secretarial Division of private group in additional City branch.

D. Nicholas
Acme Appointments
315 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HH
01 493 4800

CULINARY DELIGHTS

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No SH. No Audio

Put your organisational skills into practice when working for the Director of this prestigious Food and Wine Company. Although there is some secretarial work, you will spend most of your day involved in arranging banquets and conferences and other social functions. Previous catering experience would be an asset.

BOND ST. BUREAU
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22 South Molton St., W1
629 3692 629 5580

REPORTER RETAIL JEWELLER

Another integral promotion leaves a vacancy for a reporter on Retail Jewellery. This makes a leader in a fast-growing colour video and offers an excellent opportunity to contribute to a successful team.

Identify the post will suit a local newspaper reporter who want to move into television publishing or a reporter who has successfully completed a recognised NCTJ course. Previous full-time experience as a journalist is essential. NCTJ terms and conditions, as outlined in the current House Agreement, apply to this vacancy.

Apply to:
John Goss, Editor
Retail Jewellery
190 Avenue Road, Suite 200
London NW3 7TP
Tel: 01-435 6614, fax 2206



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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

PARTNERS' SECRETARIES

£12,000+ and Bonus

We are a 900 staff accounting and consulting practice just completing our fourth consecutive year of 30% growth in London.

We are seeking high calibre secretaries to provide secretarial and administrative support to one or two Partners.

Successful candidates require excellent communication and secretarial skills (copy/audio 60 wpm and/or shorthand 100 wpm) and must have previous experience in a demanding secretarial capacity. Wang experience desirable but not essential. Duties do not include accounts typing.

If you enjoy using your own initiative and working in a pressurised, professional but friendly environment then send your CV to:

Gigi Kinsella, Personnel Officer, Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, LONDON W1M 1DA.



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ACCOUNTANTS · BUSINESS ADVISERS · MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Secretary/P.A.

to £13,000

If being interviewed by someone like yourself in a relaxed, private atmosphere is more your style than the usual shop front agency chat, we have the service you have been looking for.

One of our clients has an excellent opportunity for a well educated Secretary/P.A. with good organisational skills. Free to use your initiative to the full. Lots of client liaison and varied duties.

For a confidential discussion call Barbara Barrow on

01-242 6321

(out of office hours 04-755 2554) or write to her at

Personnel Resources

75 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UL.



Finance in the Fast Lane

£17,000 Neg.

Would you like to join an exciting new venture specialising in mergers and acquisitions backed by a leading American investment house?

Working with two dynamic and highly successful executives, this position will combine the roles of personal assistant and office manager. You should be an experienced administrator, a skilled communicator and used to working under considerable pressure; initiative and self motivation will be essential in this varied and demanding post.

Skills required 80/60. Age preferred 25-35.

Please call on 01-631 0479.

GERMAN BIL. PA HQ S/H NEG. TO £12K + BENEFITS

The new German Manager of a large firm requires an experienced, bilingual PA to be responsible for the daily running of his office and work closely as part of the management team, attending to the firm's operations and client administration. Age 25-40.

BILINGUAL FRENCH PA NEG. TO £15K
As the PA to the Managing Director of the substantial French Company that deals with office research, you will be part of this dynamic team handling all company matters. Shortlisted will be interviewed. Age 25 to 35.

FRENCH BIL. PA CAR COMPANY £11K NEG
Based in St. Germain, the internationally French company offers the opportunity to see your French at a senior level. Working with the French head office in a busy, friendly environment. Good benefits, including a car discount scheme, offered for good WP skills and excellent French.

SPANISH BIL. PA £9K + BENEFITS
A senior secretarial to a well-known pharmaceutical company is seeking a confident and experienced secretary to assist him. Use your organisational skills and initiative as well as your fluent Spanish in a dynamic contact with the head office in a busy, friendly environment. Good benefits, including a car discount scheme, offered for good WP skills and excellent French.

GERMAN BIL. SECRETARY NEG. TO £12K + BENEFITS
The young operations manager of a German bank is concerned with foreign exchange rates up through to computer and office administration. As his secretary you will develop an increasingly international role while using your skills and initiative to the full. Age 25 to 35.

Please call

Eagle Recruitment

(01) 548 9934.

Eagle Recruitment

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AGENCY

Opportunity in fast-moving international office for young Secretary/Assistant who has intelligence, energy and enthusiasm. Good education, sound secretarial skills and previous wordprocessing experience are essential. Languages would be an advantage. (Italian preferable). Salary c. £9,500. Please write or fax cv to:

Mrs. U. Rale

The Andry Montigny Group

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London W1M 5AB

Tel: 01-487 2282

Fax: 01-487 3488

No Agencies

A STAR IS BORN!

Package c. £19,000

Shine as the Director's Darling at the Christmas Cocktail Party. He will trust you to organise every aspect and stand at his side meeting and greeting clients. Other functions will need your attention to detail and sense of style. Bachelor with (40-50+), speech and presentation will put you on centre stage at this International Financial Institution. For immediate interview please call KIERAN O'BROCK on 01-438-9265.

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Package c. £16,000

Such an effort won't be necessary. Luckily you only need to float and communicate fluently in French and English to navigate your way through every department from the MD to Division Manager of this prestigious financial institution. Administrative/typing/WP skills essential. Urgent please call KIERAN O'BROCK on 01-438-9265.

Zarak Hay Associates Ltd

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Can you speak to Europe in its own language?

FRENCH fluent. PA. Director. Finance Co. West End. English & French S/H. English mother-tongue standard. 22+ c. £12,000 + banking benefits.
FRENCH fluent. Administrator. Travel Co. Middle. Typing. 21+. £9,500 + perks.
ITALIAN good conversational. Secretary (2nd jobber). 2 Analysts. West End Bank. S/H an advantage, not essential. WP. Good telephone manner. Mid 20s. c. £12,000 + A.A.E. exceptional benefits.

TEMPING COUP!

Fluent German, English shorthand. Olivetti ETV 260

International Secretaries

01-491 7100.

CORPORATE PSYCHOLOGISTS ST ALBANS

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We are a young, expanding, professional consultancy working at senior level with blue-chip companies in the human resources field.

Job content is highly varied and includes producing a wide range of documentation using sophisticated WP facilities, managing client and technical databases, arranging client events and public relations, and undertaking research and support activities. Would suit human sciences graduate with excellent secretarial and interpersonal skills. Excellent working conditions. Salary c. £12,000. Good benefits.

Phone or write to Paul Thomas or Neville Osmin at:

The Paycom Partnership

Romeland House

Romeland Hill

St Albans

Herts

AL3 4EZ

Tel: 0727 66233

Hot Property

£14,000

A great chance to join the fast-moving world of Property and bring a sense of ordered calm into the lives of two high-powered young Partners. The environment is hectic but stimulating and your role will involve liaising with tenants, organising a busy appointments schedule, composing your own correspondence etc. Lots of initiative essential to handle delegated projects. Unflappable? Mature? Efficient? 60 wpm typing ability? Call us today on 01-493 0713 for details.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

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required for busy and rapidly expanding Project Management company based in St James's Square. The ability to work under pressure and demonstrate initiative are the essential requirements for the position. A smart appearance and the ability to deal with people are also important. The position carries an attractive salary and a unique opportunity to develop in the property world.

Please telephone: 01-321 0626. Mrs. Rutter.

PA FOR AMERICAN COMPANY

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PLEASE REPLY TO: 01-438-9265

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Our client is a successful private company with a range of subsidiaries providing services to the advertising, print and design industries. With the highest reputation for quality and professional expertise, the company has an established but growing business throughout the UK and Europe.

PA to Financial Director c.£13K W1

Provide full secretarial support to this busy, young PD and help him cope with the pressure! All the usual duties, with the emphasis on being really involved within a small exciting HQ team. Accompanying skills not necessary but experience in a similar role ideal.

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As PA to the MD of this company you will provide all usual secretarial support plus a vital role in developing sales. Run the office, keep his diary and set up sales meetings, entertaining etc. Lots of variety and real involvement. Experience in an agency or marketing environment is ideal.

Please write with full career details to Alan Forrest, Strategic People Recruitment, The Range, Dockett Eddy Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 9NT.

STRATEGIC PEOPLE RECRUITMENT

focus of attention?

Never a dull moment in this prestigious merchant bank of international repute. As PA to this dynamic boss you'll be fully appreciated for your excellent organisational skills and administrative flair arranging meetings, lunches and liaising with blue chip clients.

£13,000 plus banking benefits. Skills 60wpm.

TATE APPOINTMENTS

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Tate

01-408 0424

EUROPEAN CONNECTION

£15-£20,000 + Mortgage Subsidy

Do you like being the person others rely on? If so, the newly established economic research team within an international investment bank in EC2 has an exceptional opportunity for someone to co-ordinate their activities: client liaison and administration, setting up systems, arranging meetings, business travel and providing secretarial support will form the major part of your job.

With 1992 fast approaching the team needs a secretary with good written and spoken German.

You should be at ease with clients, have lots of initiative, 60 wpm typing and excellent WP. An interest in the latest technology and finance would be a distinct advantage. Age 25-35. Please telephone Ann Seabridge on 588 3335.

Crone Corkill RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PROSPECTS IN PROPERTY

A bright, enthusiastic Audio Secretary with rusty shorthand is required to work for a Partner who deals in retail premises in the South East and South Wales. Based in the West End you will find the position demanding and varied in a friendly environment.

If you are 20+ with excellent typing skills and feel you can offer initiative, involvement and support then we can offer you a competitive salary, discretionary bonus, LV's and a sociable atmosphere.

Please send CV to

Personnel Department

HEALEY & BAKER

29 St George Street, Hanover Square

London W1A 3BG

The Information Race...

As PA to the Deputy Chairman of this well-known Communications Group, you will be using your fluent French and confident skills (100/80) to organise his very hectic days. Extensive senior level liaison involved therefore excellent social skills a must. If you are looking for all the above plus a salary of £15,500, and are aged 25+, please call 01-409 1232 for an appointment.

Recruitment Consultants to the Communications Industry

SENIOR SECRETARY/PA

Oneplus is a medium sized business strategy company based in modern offices in Brentford with an office in Stockholm and a large international client base.

We are seeking to recruit a highly organised and efficient Senior Secretary/PA for one of our Partners who spends the majority of his time overseas. The work is interesting but demanding and needs someone mature who can work on their own initiative. You will need to make extensive travel arrangements, liaise with clients, as well as organise his private correspondence and accounts. In addition you will be handling routine secretarial work for one other consultant. You will be using Wordstar 2000 but training will be given if necessary. You will need shorthand, French and/or German and a current driving licence.

We are offering a salary of £13,500 neg. plus bonus.

Please reply with your CV to Anne Powell, Oneplus Business Strategy Partners Ltd., County House, 4-6 High Street, Brentford TW8 0DX.

CARE TO COMMUNICATE?

c.£10,000

Expanding W1 Communications Dept need highly motivated 18-21 year olds with good typing, WP and organisational skills to run own area and liaise with clients.

PRIME MOVER

c.£14,000

Key job for intelligent, outgoing PA Sec. mid 20's with 3-5 years exp. in WP and admin. to run own area and liaise with clients.

VISITING WINNERS

c.£11,000

Two young PA Sec's of 20/21 with 3-5 years exp. in WP and admin. to run own area and liaise with clients.

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01-481 4481

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NO PRESSURE
NO OVERTIME
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£12,500**

This young but professional company who design and make Airships are expanding rapidly throughout the world. We have two executive positions which are very varied and extremely involved. We also reward well and because we are growing so fast your prospects for advancement are excellent. Short hand and typing needed.
Call Bridget McNaughton on 01-846 9787.

**TRAVEL THE WORLD
£15,000 + + +**

Travel the world as the french speaking PA to the Deputy Chairman of this Publishing group who are never out of the headlines! You should thrive in a high-pressure environment and be prepared to take on new challenges every day. Good shorthand and WP are necessary.
Call Sarah Mendel on 01-831 0666.

**A TOUCH OF CLASS
£12,000 Package**

This professional recruitment consultancy have two designers working for them so their offices are fabulous! They're looking for a committed secretary who wants to get really involved. Using your good S/H and typing skills you'll enjoy a wide variety of duties from meeting and greeting clients to ordering new office equipment. Exc benefits package.
Call Fiona Campbell on 01-834 0388.

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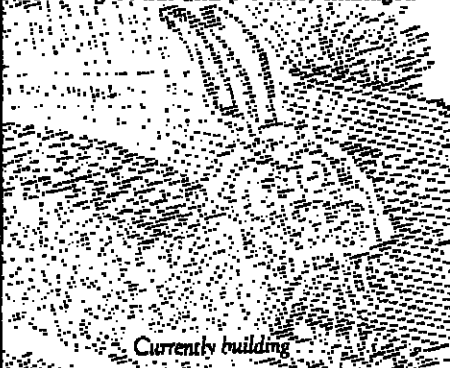
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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

And now, designer barns

The boom in converted barns continues, seemingly immune to any depression in the property market generally. Unconverted barns are being sold for ever higher prices, and once they are converted there is a ready demand for them. Their attraction is such that some developers now are even designing new homes to look like barn conversions.

"However, there are objections and worries about the thriving barn industry, put forward in two recent pronouncements that describe the disadvantages to both local communities and local wildlife."

A report, commissioned by the Council for the Protection of Rural England and published this month, claims that the conversion of farm buildings, predominantly barns, is failing to produce recognisable environmental or social benefits.

The study, *Superb Conversions?*, by the Centre for Rural Studies at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, Gloucestershire, concludes that the impact on rural employment is minimal and short-term, and that the converted buildings are usually priced beyond the reach of local families.

It says that, far from preserving traditional and historic buildings, residential conversions often have a detrimental effect on their environment.

The council's conclusion is that if this form of farm diversification results in an impoverished farm

Christopher Warman discovers why some houses look like converted farm buildings

landscape and wildlife it should not take place.

Threats to wildlife have been highlighted by Dr Gordon McGlone, director of the Trust for Nature Conservation in Gloucestershire, an area full of barns. He urged local planners to have some thought for barn owls and bats when they consider the fast-growing number of applications for barn conversions.

Dr McGlone said that when the trust knew of wildlife in a particular barn under consideration, it objected to the application and pointed out that it was possible to convert while preserving the habitats of the creatures. "There are many barns where we are not sure if owls or bats are in occupation," he said. "Then all we can do is ask

the owners and the planners to make allowances so that wildlife can use the building."

He believed there was growing awareness of the need for conservation, and said that most people converting barns made sure, for example, that they used new timber treatment that was not harmful to bats. "But there are still the cowboy builders who have to watch out for," said Dr McGlone. "There will always be people who want to remove every vestige of wildlife from their homes, even if the wildlife lived there first."

A way of avoiding the problem is that adopted by a number of developers who are building "new" barns. One has just come on to the market in Great Somerford, Wiltshire, built by

Bowpine Contractors, part of Somerford Developments, which is already known for its conversion work. The Gittings, named after the old farm in whose garden the "barn" is being built, has five bedrooms and two reception rooms on the first floor, and has a balcony for the large sitting room designed as a granary hoist to give the full barn treatment.

The agents, Black Horse Agencies, claim that, given a year or two to mellow, it will be hard to distinguish from an up-market barn conversion. The asking price is around £260,000.

The same agents have been involved in the sale of several unconverted barns and estimate that £100,000 seems to be the very minimum a lucky farmer can expect for them. If conversion of a barn into a four-bedroom house can cost £150,000, it is not surprising that the price is high.

In August the agents sold a small barn with an acre of land at Box, Wiltshire, for £160,000, and in September an unconverted barn in a farmyard in the Chew Valley, with about half an acre, fetched £214,000. Last month Baldham Mill at Seend, near Devizes, a stone malthouse barn with a riverside paddock and fishing rights, with permission for a single dwelling, was sold at auction for £145,000, compared with a guide price of £100,000, to a developer, so many of these unconverted barns are.

Black Horse Agencies Geering



In the grand manner: Newton Farm Barn at Long Newton. The attractions include a full-height hall

and Colyer, at Steyning, West Sussex, has two fine barns with planning consent for conversion. New Barn, on the edge of the village of Amberley, by the South Downs, is a traditional Sussex barn that can be converted into a four-bedroom property. It is priced at around £170,000. And at Thakeham, a 17th-century oak-framed barn, having permission for a three-bedroom house by a pond, with adjacent traditional buildings, has an asking price of around £200,000.

It is virtually the only way to create character houses in rural settings

There is an undoubted attraction in having the raw material of a barn as the basis of a home. A listed timber-frame barn near the village of Hargrave, Suffolk, standing in two acres of grass, has draft plans for a three-storey house with three reception rooms and five bedrooms, and — as the

agents, Smith-Woolley, of Cambridge, say — the opportunity to landscape a garden from scratch. The barn, part of Great Southwood Park Farm, by the village of Great Southwood, has a guide price of £120,000.

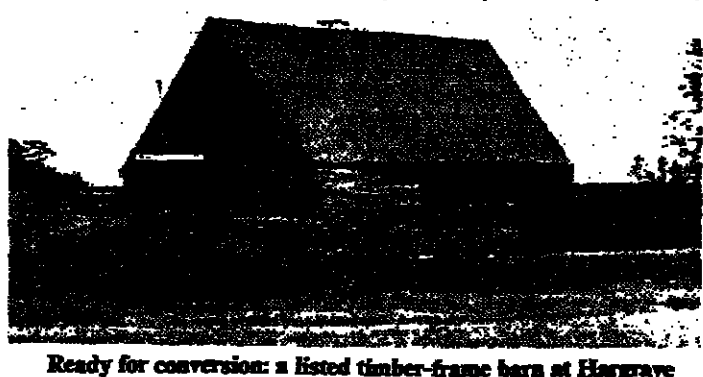
James Way, of Knight Frank & Rutley's Stratford-upon-Avon office, which has several barn conversions on its books in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, explains their attraction: "Their appeal stems from the fact that they represent virtually the only opportunity of creating new houses with great character in village or rural settings. The combination of this, together with their original period features, modern layout and fixtures and fittings, make them a particularly attractive proposition."

He can offer, for example, The Barn, at Little Comberton, Worcestershire, with five bedrooms, at around £330,000, or Hallams Barn, Peabworth, Warwickshire, with five bedrooms, in a courtyard setting, at around £385,000. Newton Farm Barn at Long Newton, is a fine Gloucestershire

barn, listed Grade II and built of Cotswold stone. It has been converted into a grand house, with a full-height hall, a gallery landing, and plenty of exposed timber and stone. This four-bedroom barn, with outbuildings and a swimming pool in six acres, has an asking price of around £600,000.

Lower prices come with barns split into units. King & Chase's Chichester office is selling seven dwellings created out of a conversion of Marsh Barns at Runciton, West Sussex. The buildings, set around a courtyard, vary in height and depth and range in price from £154,500 to £172,500 for two and in some cases three bedrooms.

In Cornwall, a local stone barn at Devoran, near Truro, was converted into two three-bedroom homes two years ago. It has views of Restronguet Creek, the Carrack Road and St Anthony Lighthouse. The identical units have three bedrooms and a triple-aspect lounge on the first floor. They are for sale at £230,000 through Miller and Company, of Truro.



Ready for conversion: a listed timber-frame barn at Hargrave

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PRUDENTIAL

Property Services

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which it had granted to the plaintiffs, and granting the plaintiffs' application to the trustees as plaintiffs in the action.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the plaintiffs had added and left the same effect as the assigned and trust deed which they had executed, there could not have been objection.

It was necessary to look at the reality of the trust rather than its form, and his Lordship could see no objection to the plaintiffs anticipating their death.

The court had jurisdiction to add the trustees as parties even after disposing of the appeal if it was necessary to meet the needs of the case. It was so necessary that the trustees would be liable for any costs and be parties for any findings in the House of Lords. The point of law would be decided.

Conclusive to lead Richards treble

By Mandarin

Gordon Richards and his stable jockey, Phil Tuck, who have had a quiet time recently by their own high standards, can make up for lost time with a treble at Hexham today.

The stable indicated a revival was at hand when the Langholm Dyer was successful at Catterick on Monday, and Conclusive looks the best hope for the stable in the Captain Morgan Handicap Chase. He is my nap.

Last time out this half-brother to Randolph Place showed signs of returning to form when sixth, beaten 16 lengths, by High Edge Grey. On his seasonal debut he won

unchallenged by 20 lengths at Southwell.

Today he looks to have the most to fear from Kamal Siddiqi, who ran well on his debut when fourth behind Pampering. The remainder of the opposition look no better than selling players.

Norval, selected for the Sandeman Novices Chase, can make amends for his lapse last time, when, on his chasing debut, he was unseated Tuck. On that occasion, this useful hurdler, was returning after an absence of two years, and this afternoon I expect him to be sharper and, hopefully, more careful at his fences.

Sweet City can complete the treble in the Seagram 100

Pipers Novices' Hurdle. Last time out he came up against the useful Jabru a week ago. Haydock when beaten five lengths, but the remainder of the field was a further 10 lengths in arrears.

The colt has the most to fear from Macho Man. On his debut Macho Man was beaten half a length by the selection when they finished second and third behind Stated Case at Kelso. However, they meet on the same terms today and on that occasion Sweet City was in need of the outing.

Jonjo O'Neill has made an excellent start to his third season as a trainer with 12 winners from 46 runners. The popular Irishman has an in-

Ravinella eclipses record at £1.4m

By Michael Seely
Racing Correspondent

Ravinella, the winner of the English and French 1,000 Guineas was sold to Allen Paulson at Tattersalls Sales in Newmarket last night for \$1.4 million guineas, a record for a horse out of Ireland (Michael Seely writes).

A big price was added to the proceedings as Paulson was in touch throughout the bidding with his agent, Emmanuel Seroux, by telephone from his home in the United States between Savannah, Georgia, and Washington DC.

Ravinella is to stay in training and will be sent to Dick Lundy, Paulson's private trainer in California. "We thought we might get her for a bit less," said Seroux, of New York International, "but who knows what is expensive? Ravinella will probably start racing again in the spring."

Paulson, formerly the president of Gulfstream Park in Florida, is a big player on the international scene. Among the outstanding horses he has owned, or had a share in, have been the winner of the Kentucky Derby, Secretariat, and the winner of last year's Breeders' Cup Turf and Exotic, the winner of the Budweiser International the year before.

Ravinella was one of the 34-strong contingent from the dispersal sale of Secretariat's bloodstock at the beginning of the sale of the draft Michael West, the senior partner in Tattersalls, paid tribute to his firm's 20-year association with the vendors, which had been a partnership between the Head family and Combe Robert & Co. members, who died in September.

Dark Landed, the Irish St. Leger winner, fetched 760,000 guineas to the bid of Robert Sangster. No breeding plans have yet been made.



Last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Charter Party (Richard Dunwoody) reappears at Cheltenham on Saturday

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HEXHAM

Selections
By Mandarin

12.45 Norval.
1.15 Le Levador.
1.45 CONCLUSIVE (nap).

By Michael Seely
12.45 Unseated-Plained, 3.15 Fish Quay.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.45 LACIDAR.

Going: good to soft (back straight soft)

12.45 SANDEMAN NOVICES CHASE (21, 158: 2m) (10 runners)

1. 04119-1 CONTACT KELVIN 26 (C. J. O'Sullivan) M. S. B. 6-11-0. P. Wilson 85
2. 030-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
3. 020-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
4. 020-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
5. 020-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
6. 020-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
7. 020-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
8. 020-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
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2.15 SEAGRAM 100 PIPERS CHAMPIONSHIP NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 3-Y-O; £1,688: 2m) (15 runners)

1. 04119-1 CONTACT KELVIN 26 (C. J. O'Sullivan) M. S. B. 6-11-0. P. Wilson 85
2. 030-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
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1.45 BATTLE HILL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (2700: 3m) (12 runners)

1. 04119-1 CONTACT KELVIN 26 (C. J. O'Sullivan) M. S. B. 6-11-0. P. Wilson 85
2. 030-041 DALLON DAWY 11 (V. Hall) V. Hall 6-11-0. A. O'Connell 85
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2.45 RACING POST NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £1,155: 2m 4f) (14 runners)

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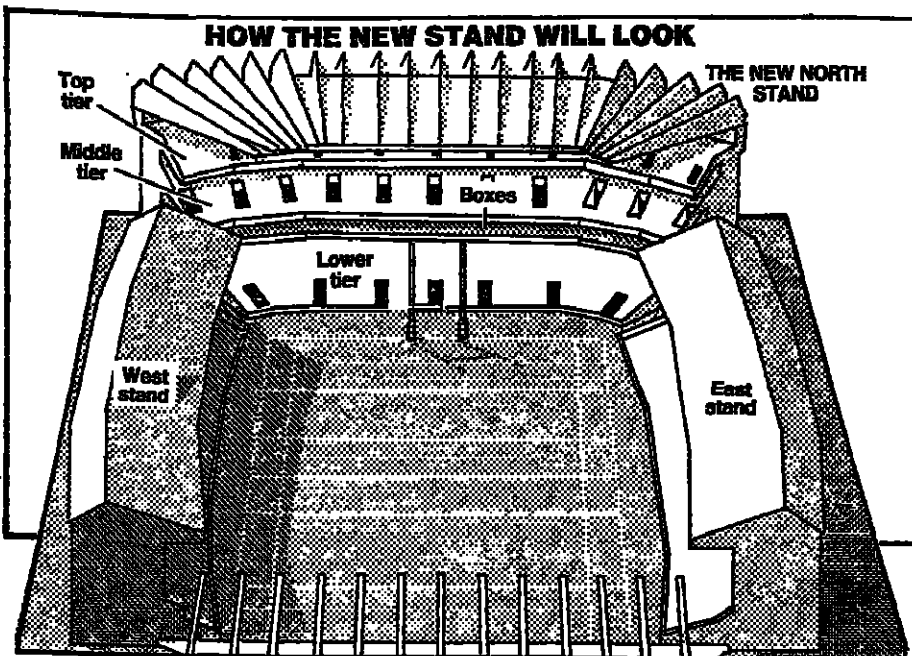
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£10m stand in buoyant future for Twickenham



By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The buoyant mood of the Rugby Football Union, reflecting the euphoria which greeted England's win over Australia earlier this month and the enthusiasm for forthcoming international matches, found an echo yesterday: the RFU unveiled its plans for a new North Stand costing £10 million and due for completion by November 1990.

Assuming the work goes according to schedule, it is possible to envisage a celebration match against New Zealand, 12 months before the start of the World Cup in Britain and France, since it is hoped to bring the All Blacks here for a brief visit at that time.

"We have recognized for a long time that this is an old-fashioned ground," Dudley

Wood, the RFU secretary, said. "But it is a very good location for our headquarters, with easy access to three motorways, an international airport and a railway station, and our thinking has been sharpened up by our success in bidding for the final of the 1991 World Cup."

The present North Stand, built in 1921, is the oldest of the three stands which survive from the era between the world wars. The East and West stands have been given a life of a further 20 years and it is hoped that, within that generation, the complete redevelopment of the Twickenham site will take place.

The first stage of the refurbishing of the national ground was the opening, seven years ago, of the South Stand at a cost of £5 million. The ultimate aim of the RFU is for a capacity of 75,000, all

seated; the architects who have designed the new North Stand, Husband and Co of Sheffield — who have been responsible for the design of stands at Nottingham Forest and the two Sheffield Football League clubs — have offered plans which envisage a continuous stand around three sides of the ground.

Work on the new stand, assuming planning approval goes through, will begin immediately after next May's Middlesex seven tournament. It will hold 20,000 spectators, of whom 8,000 will be seated and 12,000 standing (compared with the present capacity of 10,500), though the design of the stand makes it easy to insert seats in the standing area.

The accommodation will be in three tiers, incorporating 54 executive boxes with lifts, and

the architects believe that, at 100 feet, it will be one of the tallest in Western Europe. None of the ground's present capacity (63,000) will be lost during the building. "We wanted as much space as possible at various levels for other purposes, such as a gymnasium, conference centres and additional catering facilities," Wood said. "The brief was for as much multi-purpose space as possible."

Financing of the project will be achieved through gate money, sponsorship and marketing, and the renewal of debt-free seats (the present issue expires within the next two years). Already this season the RFU has staged an international match which was a sell-out for the first time for an autumn game, and there are plans for more autumn matches over the next two years.

There is expectation, at further spectacular gain, at Twickenham next Tuesday, when the University match is expected to attract a gate of more than 50,000 for the first time in 20 years. Moreover, the RFU has banked £1.15 million and £1.25 million respectively in ticket applications for the international against Scotland and France this season, of which more than half will be returned since demand is three times more than Twickenham can hold.

Nevertheless the interest which accrues during the holding period is worth £18-20,000. "Within a year or so of completion of the stand we will have paid for it," Wood said, exuding a confidence for the future of the game in England which will certainly have come across to the Harlech Television crew from Wales who interviewed him yesterday.

Positive signs for England tour of New Zealand

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

England's cricket administrators expect to hear in the next 48 hours that their unstinting efforts to salvage a tour from this sabotaged winter have at last been successful.

Negotiations with New Zealand are now virtually complete and the England management confidently believes that nothing further will stand in the way of a seven-week tour, beginning in mid-February, to replace the abandoned tour of India.

This conviction exists despite the sadly familiar spectre of political intrusion, which was raised once again earlier this week, and despite the financial considerations which could legitimately have persuaded the New Zealand authorities that staging what is no more than a courtesy tour would be folly.

It had been expected that a decision on the proposals would be forthcoming last weekend, following a full meeting of the New Zealand Cricket Council (NZCC) in Wellington. When no firm news materialized, it began to seem that English optimism had been misplaced, especially when Barry Paterson, chairman of the NZCC, attended a

meeting with his country's foreign minister, Russell Marshall.

Some reports suggested that Marshall had exerted pressure to veto the tour, fearing that the South African connection of several England players could damage the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in 1990. Both sides have now denied any such collusion.

A spokesman for Marshall said yesterday: "A decision on the tour is up to the Cricket Council to make. They have not been told to call it off." Paterson added: "Obviously, there is some concern about England coming. I went to see Mr Marshall because it would be the responsible thing to do to raise the matter."

If this obstacle has, indeed, been cleared then the path ought to be open for an itinerary comprising two district games, two Test matches and a series of one-day internationals also involving Pakistan. This schedule would satisfy the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), who have insisted all along that they would not engage in any tour unless "meaningful cricket" was offered.

Alan Smith, the chief executive of the TCCB, was not at his desk yesterday, but a board spokesman said: "We are very optimistic. Negotiations are continuing and we are in frequent contact with New Zealand. We did not hear from them today but, unless we hear to the contrary, we have to work on the assumption that things will go ahead."

This attitude was mirrored by the tour manager, Peter Lush, who confirmed that he was keenly looking forward to a return to New Zealand, where England took part in a dull, drawn series only 10 months ago.

"I am hoping and expecting that the trip can go ahead," he said. "Naturally, we are in the hands of the New Zealand authorities, who have some complicated arrangements to make over scheduling and sponsorship. These things cannot be done overnight and so nothing sinister should be read into the fact that we do not have a definite decision from them yet."

Lush also believes that the inevitable public apathy over the prospect of more Test matches in New Zealand can be overcome. "Last winter's Tests there suffered from bad weather and from cricket which was not always very positive."

There is a suspicion, with some substance to it, that many of England's leading players would derive far more benefit from a completely free winter. The alternative view is that confidence, sadly lacking for much of 1988, could be greatly improved by a brief and successful foray abroad before the Australians arrive here next summer.



Leader of men: Crooks, chairman of the PFA, ready for action at Selhurst Park yesterday

Experience the key to Crooks being selected

By Clive White

Of all the problems facing Gary Crooks, the first black man to be elected chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, racial prejudice, thankfully, is not one of them. "Football is one of the industries where I have seen minimal racial problems," Crooks said yesterday.

Crooks's election on Monday, ahead of Gary Mabbutt, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Nigel Spackman, of Liverpool, in succession to Brian Talbot, is another significant milestone in the progress of the black footballer.

"The myths and fallacies about black players have all been slowly eroded. Black players can be commended for getting on with it," Crooks said. He sees his own appointment as a further testimony to the fact that equal opportunity exists in football for people of all creeds and colour.

"I think the beauty of the game is that first and foremost you are a professional footballer with the chance to express your talent. It's got to be good that young black people can realize that they will be given a fair crack of the whip."

Crooks was by far the most experienced of the candidates, having spent six years on the management committee and been in a position to deal with many of the problems facing the game in recent months such as the television and super-league struggles. Crooks

said that the union was keen that there should be some continuity.

"Brian Talbot's concern was that he stayed as long as he could to groom his successor and clearly my experience was instrumental in me being chosen," he said.

He was anxious that players were more aware of the micro-scope they now find themselves under because of attention from the media. He did not agree that standards in discipline had declined, only that some players had become "over-zealous, over-committed to the extent of being less talented". Crooks commented: "I have to say, though, that I've never met a player yet who wanted to break somebody's leg."

He realizes that as a player he, too, is under that microscope, and that at any moment a player can be branded a villain. "People with excellent records have suddenly found themselves in terrible trouble because they happened to have done something at the wrong time in the wrong place."

Crooks, who has just returned from a cartilage operation and hopes to play his first first-team game of the season for Charlton Athletic against Manchester United on Saturday, remarked: "I have two or three years left in the game and while in this position as chairman hopefully I can keep my head while all around some are losing theirs."

Somerset lure Cook

Somerset have signed Jimmy Cook, the South African opening batsman, as their overseas player for next season on a one-year contract. He will replace Martin Crowe, who has cried off from county cricket owing to injury, and Steve Waugh, who is likely to be touring England with the Australians (Ivo Tennant writes).

Cook, aged 35, has been a

member of the Transvaal side since 1972, and has played in every one of South Africa's unofficial international matches since 1981. That would be testimony to his consistency even if a career average of 42.08 was not.

Essex yesterday confirmed Graham Gooch as captain for 1989. He takes over from Keith Fletcher, who will lead the county's second XI

Police seek advice on Roberts file

By John Goodbody

Graham Roberts, the Chelsea captain and former England defender, may face charges for allegedly directing foul language at a section of the crowd during the second division game against Bradford City at Valley Parade on November 19.

The West Yorkshire Police have sent an investigation file on Roberts to the Crown Prosecution Service and are awaiting legal advice. Roberts, who will play against Bradford City again tonight in the second round of the Simod Cup, has yet to be informed officially of the police action.

Bobby Campbell, the Chelsea manager, said before setting off on the trip north: "All Roberts and Chelsea know is what we have read on Teletext."

The Football Association has not been officially informed of the police action. A Football Association spokesman said: "There has been no word to date and time has moved on. But it is entirely possible that the police might still contact us."

Graham Kelly, the FA's

secretary-designate, said: "If we hear something officially about this we will have to look at it. It is the FA's duty to look at anything that could possibly tarnish the image of the game."

The FA believes that football is capable of dealing with its own offenders and can act more quickly than the law. However, the number of cases involving sport in recent years does emphasize that players are not immune to prosecution when they step on to a field.

The alleged abuse involving Roberts, the former Tottenham and Glasgow Rangers player, took place in the final six minutes as Chelsea scored twice to draw 2-2. The police said that spectators had complained of the language of a Chelsea player, who was identified later.

Norwich City have unveiled plans for a new training centre. They want to build a self-contained residential complex, with training pitches, physiotherapy centre and players' bedrooms, at the Old Polo Ground.

Shrewsbury will fight ban

Shrewsbury Town, five times winners of the Welsh Cup, are to appeal after being removed from the competition yesterday. The second division club fielded Ron Green, a goalkeeper on loan from Wimbledon against the non-League team, Caernarfon, in the third round on November 15.

The Welsh FA ruled he was ineligible and banned the club, but the Shrewsbury secretary, Mal Starkey, said: "It's an amazing decision. Green's contract was simply extended when his first month was up."

Matthews takes blame

Mick Matthews, the Halifax Town captain, will shoulder the blame to an offence for which another player was blamed at a FA disciplinary hearing tomorrow.

Matthews will tell the hearing in Manchester that he grabbed the arm of Tom Fitzharris, the Bolton referee, to protest at a penalty he awarded Hartlepool in a League match at The Shay this month.

Dean Martin, who had been standing next to Matthews, was sent off for manhandling the referee and was given a four-match suspension. Now,

it was not a fresh registration.

Ian McNeill, the Shrewsbury manager, said: "Ron Green had played for us for six weeks before the tie. It wouldn't be so bad if they had ordered us to replace the tie. Throwing us out seems way over the top."

The non-League FA Cup heroes, Enfield, are determined to keep home advantage for the second round tie against the third division club, Cardiff City, despite the notorious reputation of the Welsh club's travelling supporters.

Martin, who is halfway through the ban, is to appear at tomorrow's hearing charged with bringing the game into disrepute.

He will give evidence along with Matthews and Billy Ayre, the manager, and the hearing will also be attended by a Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) official. Ayre said: "From the start, Martin said he did not touch the referee and Matthews has always said he was to blame. We hope to prove that Fitzharris was mistaken and the commission will decide Martin has been punished enough."

Eddie McCluskey, the Enfield manager, whose side put out the fourth division club, Leyton Orient, in a first round second replay on Monday night, said: "We want to reward our players and supporters, and we can't see any reason why the game should not go ahead at our ground."

The biggest obstacle could be that police resources become overstretched, with neighbouring Tottenham playing a first division match at home to Millwall on the same day.

Cardiff would take at least 600 supporters to Southbury Road even though the club are under an all-ticket order by the FA of Wales whenever they play away.

Joe Allon, the Swansea forward, has completed a £10,000 move to Hartlepool after spending a month on loan with the fourth division club. Gateshead-born Allon, joined Swansea on a free transfer from Newcastle 18 months ago, but despite scoring seven goals in seven games last season has not been able to command a regular place.

The third division club, Reading, are having talks with the Bournemouth centre-back Mark Whitlock.

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McCreath out over drug test

By John Goodbody

Mark McCreath, the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) welterweight champion, has been left out of the England team to meet West Germany on Saturday because of controversy over a drug test.

Kevin Hickey, the ABA's chief coach, said yesterday that McCreath, from Lincolnshire, has been omitted from the team for his own good and until an inquiry had been held into alleged irregularities at the England v Czechoslovakia match at Bletchley earlier this month.

Hickey said that he had been told by Dr Roy Axon, the ABA's chief medical officer, that after McCreath's points win against Czechoslovakia he "had not completed the dope test" and also had told the drug control unit at Bletchley that he had taken three caffeine tablets that afternoon. Dr Axon is abroad and could not be reached for clarification last night.

Caffeine is proscribed by the International Olympic Committee and the Sports Council because it is a stimulant. But since it is part of beverages such as coffee and tea, the regulations allow individuals to have levels of caffeine up to 12 parts per million. This would allow an individual to have several strong cups of coffee without risking disqualification. The ABA has yet to hear the results of the analysis of the urine sample.

Almost all Poland's young weightlifters have been taking illegal drugs, according to a survey which was carried out by the country's national federation and guaranteed anonymity to the participants.

McGuigan target

Barry McGuigan will challenge Tony Lopez for his IBF super-featherweight title if he beats the Argentinian, Julio Miranda, at Picketts Lock tomorrow night. Frank Warren, the promoter, has pledged that there would be no crowd trouble despite the capacity being down from 5,000 to 1,800 because fewer than 1,800 tickets had been sold for the original venue at the Isle of Dogs.

Early tests

New York (AP) — A United States Olympic official said athletes preparing for the Games should undergo year-round random drug testing which might begin as early as next spring.

Hyland wins

Graham Hyland, of Australia, defeated his compatriot, Colin Lumley, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 in the second round of the George Wimpey British Open real tennis singles championship at Queen's Club yesterday.

Lyle's award

Sandy Lyle, the winner of the US and British Masters golf titles, has been voted Sportsman of the Year in the annual Sports Writers' Association poll. The British Olympic hockey team, the gold medal winners in Seoul, took the team prize.

Kelly to ADR

Brussels (Reuters) — Sean Kelly, of Ireland, has signed for ADR, the Belgian cycling team, dispelling earlier reports that he had joined Fagor.

Lydon 'feared attack by rival supporters'

Joe Lydon, the Wigan rugby league player, head-butted a schoolboy when he was called a pervert after a match. It was claimed at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

Lydon denies a charge of unlawful wounding. He claims that he struck Paul Needham, aged 15, because he thought he was going to be attacked.

The court was told that Needham needed stitches in a head wound after the match between St Helens and Wigan at Knowsley Road on Good Friday. He was left with a two-inch scar on his forehead.

Needham, a St Helens supporter, said that he ran on to the pitch to greet his team after the game. As he passed Lydon other supporters began shouting abuse. Lydon turned round and grabbed him by the arm before butting him.

He said that, at first, he was scared to tell the police who had attacked him. "I didn't want to get Lydon into trouble. I have got nothing against him. I think he's a good rugby player," he said.

When he was interviewed by the police four days later, Lydon alleged that he saw two of his colleagues punched as they left the pitch.

He claimed that he got tangled up with Needham as a crowd of opposing supporters gathered round him. He said he was frightened he would be beaten up.

The case continues.